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BENGAL,

•

PATNA DIVISION.



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PATNA DIVISION.

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PATNA DIVISION.

Patna Division.—A Division of Bengal, lying between 24° 17' and 27° 31' N., and 83° 19' and 86° 44' E. It is bounded on the east by the Bhāgalpur Division, and on the west by the United Provinces, and extends from Nepal on the north to the Chotā Nāgpur plateau on the south. The head-quarters of the Commissioner, who is assisted by an Additional Commissioner, are at BANKIPORE. The Division includes 7 Districts with area, population and revenue as shown below:—

DISTRICT.			Area in square miles.	Population in 1901.	Demand for land revenue and cesses in 1903-04 in thousands of rupees.
Patna	...	..	2,075	1,624,985	10,58
Gayā	...	...	4,712	2,059,933	19,54
Shahālad	...	...	4,373	1,862,690	21,62
Saran	...	...	2,674	2,402,609	10,22
Champāran	...	...	8,531	1,700,463	6,89
Muzaffarpur	...	...	3,035	2,754,790	13,64
Darbhanga	...	...	3,549	2,012,611	12,98
Total	...	...	23,749	15,614,987	1,10,42

Note.—In the Report of the census of 1901 the area of Saran was shown as 2,656 square miles, of Muzaffarpur as 2,661 square miles and of Darbhanga as 3,533 square miles. The figures adopted above are taken from the recent Settlement Reports.

The population increased from 13,118,917 in 1872 to 15,061,493 in 1881 and to 15,811,604 in 1891, but in 1901 it had fallen to 15,514,987. This decrease was shared by all the Districts except Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga. In Champāran the decline is attributable to the unhealthiness of the District, which suffered greatly from malarial affections and severe epidemics of cholera. Elsewhere the decrease is mainly attributable to the direct and indirect losses caused by the plague epidemic, a very heavy mortality, the flight of the immigrant population, and in some parts where the epidemic was raging at the time of the census, the failure of the census staff to effect an exhaustive enumeration. Prior to 1901 the epidemic had been most virulent in Patna, whose population declined by 8·4 per cent. during the decade.

The Division contains 663 persons to the square mile, a high proportion compared with Bengal as a whole. The population

exceeds that of any other Division, and is, in fact, about the same as that of the whole of the Bombay Presidency excluding Sind, while it is nearly three times as numerous as that of Assam. In 1901 Hindus constituted 88·4 per cent. of the inhabitants and Musalmāns 11·5 per cent.; there were 7,350 Christians (of whom 3,146 were natives) and 999 Jains.

The Division is intersected from west to east by the Ganges. North of the river it is a flat, alluvial formation rising very gradually towards the foot of the Himalayas, and possessing many tracts of great natural fertility. On the other side of the river it contains a strip of alluvium along the bank of the Ganges, but further south the soil changes, and the surface becomes more undulating and gradually rises till the Chotā Nagpur plateau is reached. The north of the Division enjoys in ordinary years a comparatively copious rainfall increasing towards the north, but is peculiarly liable to failure of crops in seasons of deficient rain. In the south a large area is protected by the SON CANALS system, and elsewhere the undulating surface enables the people to construct small reservoirs from which to water their fields. The four north-Ganges Districts have recently been surveyed, and a record-of-rights has been prepared. This tract is the main seat of the indigo industry in Bengal, and its outturn in 1903-04 amounted to 907 tons compared with only 476 tons from the rest of the Province. The competition of synthetic indigo and the consequent fall in prices have struck a severe blow at the prosperity of the industry, and for some years it has been steadily on the decline. Experiments are being made with a view to increase the outturn and to improve the quality of the dye, while several factories are now devoting their attention to the cultivation of country crops, and attempts are being made at Ottur in the Muzaffarpur District and elsewhere to revive the old sugar industry. The Division contains 35 towns and 34,169 villages. The largest towns are PATNA (134,785), GAYA (71,288), DARRHANGA (66,244), ARRAH (46,170), CHAPRA (45,901), MUZAFFARPUR (45,617), BIHAR (45,063), DINAPUR (33,699 including the cantonment), BETTIAH (24,696), SASARAM (23,644) and HAJIPUR (21,398). Owing to the prevalence of plague at the time of the census (March 1901), these figures do not in several cases represent the normal populations of the towns; a subsequent enumeration held in July showed the population of Patna city to be 153,739. Patna is, after Calcutta and its suburb Howrah, the largest town in Bengal and is a very important commercial centre; a large amount of traffic also passes through REVELGANJ, Hajipur and MOKAMEH, while the head-quarters of the Bengal and North-Western Railway are at SAMASTIPUR.

The Division contains the oldest towns in the Province, and Patna, Gaya and Bihar have a very ancient history. Patna was

the Pataliputra of Greek times and, like Gayā, contains many interesting antiquities. This neighbourhood was at one time a stronghold of Buddhism, and many Buddhist remains occur in the Patna, Gayā, Champāran and Muzaffarpur Districts, among the most important sites being Patna and BUDDH GAYĀ. Four pillars mark the route taken by Asoka through Muzaffarpur and Champāran on his way to what is now the Nepāl *tarai*. Of these the pillar near NANDANGARH is still almost perfect; another stands near BASARH, which is probably the site of the capital of the old kingdom of Vaisali. Interesting remains of the Muhammadan period are found in the town of Bihār, in the city of Patna, and at Sasarām, ROHTASGARH, SHERGARH and MANER. BUXAR was the scene of the defeat in 1764 of Mir Kāsim in the battle which resulted in the civil authority of Bengal, Bihār and Orissa being conferred on the East India Company. Several places in the Division are associated with incidents in the Mutiny of 1857. After the outbreak of 3 regiments at Dinapore, Shāhābād, from which the native army was largely recruited, was for some time overrun with the rebels, and the story of the defence of ARRAH is well known. Gayā was traversed by several bands of mutineers, and on three occasions the jail was broken open and the prisoners released. At SAGAULI in Champāran District Major Holmes was massacred by his troops.

Patna District.—District of the Patna Division, Bengal, lying between 24° 57' and 25° 44' N., and 84° 42' and 86° 4' E., with an area of 2,075 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the river Ganges which divides it from Sāran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga; on the south by Gayā; on the east by Monghyr; and on the west by Shāhābād. Boundaries, configuration, and hill and river system.

With the exception of the Rājgir hills in the south, the whole District is quite flat. The land along the bank of the Ganges is slightly higher than that further inland, and the line of drainage consequently runs from south-west to north-east. The Rājgir hills, which enter the District from Gayā, consist of two parallel ranges; they seldom exceed 1,000 feet in height and are for the most part rocky and covered with low jungle. The principal river is the Ganges, which flows for 93 miles along the northern boundary. The Son forms the western boundary of the District for 41 miles, entering it near Mahābalipur and flowing in a northerly direction to its junction with the Ganges. A little above the junction it is bridged by the East Indian Railway at Koelwār, from which point the river divides into two streams with a fertile island in the middle. The Pūnpūn river, which rises in the south of the Gayā District, flows through Patna in a north-easterly direction. At Naubatpur it approaches the Patna Canal, and from that point it turns to the east, and falls into the Ganges at Fatwā. Some 9 miles above this point it is joined by the Mūrhar. The Panchāna and the

Phalgu, though comparatively small streams, are of the greatest value for irrigation purposes; the whole of their water is diverted into irrigation channels and reservoirs, and their main channels are mere dried-up beds for the greater part of the year. The Sakri is another river which fails to reach the Ganges owing to the demands made upon it for irrigation purposes, and nearly all its water is carried away by 2 large irrigation channels constructed on its left bank, 12 miles below Bihâr town.

Geology. The whole District is of alluvial origin except the Rajgir hills, which consist of submetamorphic or transition rocks.

Botany. The District contains no forests. The level country near the Ganges has in the rice-fields the usual weeds of such localities. Near villages there are often considerable groves of mango trees and palmyra (*Borassus flabelliformis*), some date-palm (*Phoenix sylvestris*), and numerous examples of the tamarind and other semi-spontaneous and more or less useful species. Further from the river the country is more diversified, and sometimes a dry scrub jungle is to be met with, containing various shrubs of the order of *Euphorbiaceæ*, the *palās* (*Butea frondosa*) and other leguminous trees, and various kinds of *Ficus*, *Schleichera*, *Wenaulandia*, and *Gmelina*. The grasses that clothe the drier parts are generally of a coarse character.

Fauna. Antelope are found near the Son river, and wild hog in the *diâras* of the Ganges; bears and leopards occasionally visit the Rajgir hills, and wolves also are sometimes seen.

Climate and temperature. Owing to its distance from the sea, Patna has greater extremes of climate than the south and east of Bengal. The mean temperature varies from 60° in January to 88° in May. The highest average maximum is 101° in April. Owing to the dry westerly winds with increasing temperature in March and April, the humidity at that season is very low and averages 50 per cent. With the approach of the monsoon the air gradually becomes more charged with moisture, and the humidity remains steady at about 86 per cent. throughout July and August, falling to 71 per cent. in November. The average annual rainfall is 45 inches, of which 7 inches fall in June, 12·2 in July, 11·3 in August and 6·9 in September. Floods are common, but they ordinarily do little damage and are seldom attended with loss of life. Heavy floods occurred in 1843, 1861, 1870, and 1879; of late years the principal floods were those of 1897 and 1901, when the Son and the Ganges were in flood at the same time.

History. The District possesses great interest for both the historian and the archaeologist. It was comprised, with the country now included in the Districts of Gayâ and Shâhabâd, within the ancient kingdom of Magadha whose capital was at RAJGIR; and its general history is outlined in the articles on MAGADHA and BIHAR, in which Magadha was eventually merged. Its early

history is intimately interwoven with that of PATNA city, which has been identified with Pataliputra (the Palibothra of Megasthenes). It contains the town of Bihār, the early Muhammadan capital, from which the sub-province takes its name; and it was a famous seat of Buddhism, and many places in it were visited and described by the Chinese pilgrims, Fa Hien and Hiuen Tsiang.

In recent times two events of special interest to Englishmen stand prominently out and demand separate notice. The one is known as the Massacre of Patna (1763), and the other is connected with the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857. The former occurrence, which may be said to have sealed the fate of Muhammadan rule in Bengal, was the result of a quarrel between Mir Kāsim, at that time Nawāb of Murshidābād, and the English authorities. The Nawāb, after much negotiation, had agreed to a convention which was also accepted by Mr. Vansittart, the governor, that a transit duty of only 9 per cent. should be paid by Englishmen, which was far below the rate exacted from other traders. This convention, however, was repudiated by the Council at Calcutta, and Mir Kāsim, in retaliation, resolved to abandon all duties whatever on the transit of goods, and to throw the trade of the country open to all alike,—a measure still less acceptable to the Company's servants—and their relations with the Nawāb became more strained than ever. In April 1763 a deputation, consisting of Messrs. Hay and Amyatt, was despatched from Calcutta to Monghyr, where the Nawāb had taken up his residence; but it was now too late for negotiation. Numerous and fierce disputes had arisen between the *gumāshtas* of the English and the Muhammadan officers; and an occurrence which happened at Monghyr, while Messrs. Hay and Amyatt were there, hastened the rupture. Mir Kāsim seized and detained some boat-loads of arms which were passing up the Ganges to Patna, on the ground that the arms were destined to be used against himself, whereupon Mr. Ellis, the chief of the factory at Patna, ordered his sepoys to occupy Patna city, which was done the following morning, June 25th. In revenge the Nawāb sent a force in pursuit of Mr. Amyatt, who had been allowed to return to Calcutta, Mr. Hay having been detained as a hostage. Mr. Amyatt was overtaken and murdered near Cossimbazar. In the meantime the Company's sepoys, who had been plundering Patna city, were driven back to the factory, a large number of them being killed. The remainder, less than a sixth of the original force of 2,000 men, after being besieged for two days and nights, fled in their boats to the frontier of Oudh, where they ultimately laid down their arms. They were brought back to Patna, to which place had been conveyed Mr. Hay from Monghyr, the entire staff of the Cossimbazar factory, who had also been arrested at the first outbreak

of hostilities, and some other prisoners. As soon as regular warfare commenced, Mir Kāsim's successes came to an end. He was defeated in two battles by Major Adams, at Girā on the 2nd August, and at Udhua Nullah on the 6th September. These defeats roused the Nawāb to exasperation, and on the 9th September he wrote to Major Adams: 'If you are resolved to proceed in this business, know for a certainty that I will cut off the heads of Mr. Ellis and the rest of your chiefs, and send them to you.' This threat he carried out on the evening of the 6th October with the help of a Swiss renegade named Walter Reinhardt, who was known to the Muhammadans as Samru. About 60 Englishmen were murdered, their bodies being thrown into a well in the compound of the house in which they were confined, and about 150 more met their death in other parts of Bengal. This massacre was followed by an active campaign in which the English were everywhere successful, and in August 1765, after the decisive battle of Buxar, the administration of Bihār, Bengal and Orissa was made over to the East India Company. An English resident was then appointed at Patna; but the administration of Bihār, which then comprised only the Patna and Gayā Districts,—Patna city itself being regarded as a separate charge,—remained in the hands of natives. In 1769 English Supervisors were appointed, and in 1770 a Council for Bihār was established at Patna. In 1774 the Supervisors, who had meanwhile been designated Collectors, and the Council for Bihār were abolished, and a Provincial Council was established at Patna. This lasted till 1781, when Bihār was made a District under a Collector and a Judge-Magistrate. In 1865 it was divided into the Patna and Gayā Districts, the Bihār sub-division being included in the former, and 19 estates were transferred from Patna to Tirhut in 1869, thus establishing the District of Patna as it now exists.

The other important event in the modern history of the District is the mutiny of the sepoy's stationed at Dinapore, the military station attached to Patna city. The three sepoy regiments at this place in 1857 were the 7th, 8th, and 40th Native Infantry. General Lloyd, who commanded the station, wrote expressing his confidence in their loyalty, and they were accordingly not disarmed; but as the excitement increased throughout Bihār, and stronger measures seemed in the opinion of the Commissioner, Mr. Taylor, to be necessary, the General, while still apparently relying on the trustworthiness of the men, made a half-hearted attempt at disarming the sepoy's. The result was that the three regiments revolted and went off in a body, taking with them their arms and accoutrements, but not their uniforms. Some took to the Ganges, where their boats were fired into and run down by a steamer which was present, and their occupants shot or

drowned. But the majority were wiser, and hastened to the river Son, crossing which they found themselves safe in Shahabad. The story of what took place in SHAHABAD will be found in the article on that District. When the news reached Bankipore that the rebels, headed by Kunwar (or Kuar) Singh, had surrounded the Europeans at Arrah, an ill-fated attempt was made to rescue them. A steamer, which was sent up the river on the 27th July, stuck on a sand-bank. Another steamer was started on the 29th; but the expedition was grossly mismanaged. The troops were landed at 7 p.m., and fell into an ambushade about midnight. When the morning dawned, a disastrous retreat had to be commenced. Out of the 400 men who had left Dinapore fully half were left behind; and of the survivors only about 50 returned unwounded. Two volunteers, Mr. M'Donnell and Mr. Ross Mangles, both of the Civil Service, besides doing excellent service on the march, performed acts of conspicuous daring. The former, though wounded, was one of the last men to enter the boats, and subsequently stepped out of shelter, climbed on the roof of the boat, and released the rudder, which had been lashed by the insurgents, amidst a storm of bullets from the contiguous bank. Mr. Ross Mangles' conduct was equally heroic. He carried a wounded man for six miles till he reached the stream, and then swam with his helpless burden to a boat, in which he deposited him in safety. Both these gentlemen afterwards received the Victoria Cross as a reward for their heroism.

The chief places of archaeological interest are RAJGIR, MANER, ^{Archæo-} PATNA city, BIHAR and GIRIAK. The village of BARAGAON ^{lozy.} has been identified as the site of the famous Nalanda monastery; and with the neighbouring village of Begampur contains masses of ruins; at Tetrāvan and Jagdispur are colossal statues of Buddha, and at Telharā and Islampur the remains of Buddhist monasteries. Many other Buddhist remains are of more or less interest.

The population increased from 1,559,517 in 1872 to 1,756,196 ^{The} in 1881 and to 1,773,410 in 1891, but dropped to 1,624,985 ^{people.} in 1901. The apparent increase between 1872 and 1881 was largely owing to defective enumeration in the former year, while the decrease recorded in 1901 is due mainly to the direct and indirect results of plague, which first broke out in January 1900 and was raging in the District at the time when the census was taken, causing many people to leave their homes and greatly increasing the difficulties in the way of the census staff. The loss of population was greatest in the thickly populated urban and semi-urban country along the banks of the Ganges, where the plague epidemic was most virulent. The south of the District, which suffered least from plague, almost held its ground. Plague has since become practically an annual visitation and causes heavy mortality.

The salient statistics of the census of 1901 are reproduced below:—

SUB-DIVISION.	Area in square miles.	NUMBER OF		Population.	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Bankipore	331	2	875	341,634	1,021	-16.6	27,778
Dinapore	424	2	791	316,607	745	-10.4	21,155
Barh	521	2	1,075	365,327	698	-10.6	22,509
Bihâr	701	1	5,111	602,907	762	- 0.9	32,833
DISTRICT TOTAL ...	2,078	7	6,862	1,626,865	783	- 8.4	104,275

The chief towns are PATNA city, BIHAR, DINAPORE, MOHAMEH and BARH. The head-quarters are at BANKIPORE, a suburb of Patna. The density is highest along the Ganges and in the Bihâr thâna, and least in the Bikram and Masaurhibazurg thânas in the south-west and in the Râjgir hills. There is a considerable ebb and flow of population across the boundary line which divides Patna from the adjoining Districts, and in addition to this, no less than one-twentieth of its inhabitants have emigrated to more distant places. They are specially numerous in Calcutta, where more than 30,000 natives of this District were enumerated in 1901; these were for the most part only temporary absentees. The vernacular of the District is the Magahi dialect of Bihârî Hindi. Hindus number 1,435,637 or 88.3 per cent. of the total population and Musalmans 186,411 or 11.5 per cent.

Their
castes and
occupations.

The most numerous Hindu castes are Ahîrs and Goâlâs (220,000), Kurmîs (181,000), Bâbhâns (114,000), Dosâdhîs (96,000), Kâhârs (85,000), Koirîs (80,000), Râjputs (64,000), Chamârs (56,000) and Telîs (52,000). Agriculture supports 62.3 per cent. of the population, industries 17.1 per cent., commerce 1.2 per cent. and professions 2.4 per cent.

Christian
Missions.

Christians number 2,662, of whom 139 are natives. The principal missions are the London Baptist Missionary Society, the London Baptist Zanâna Mission, the Zanâna Bible and Medical Mission and the Roman Catholic Mission. The Zanâna Bible and Medical Mission possesses a well-equipped hospital in Patna city; the Roman Catholic Mission has a boys' school at Kurji and a girls' boarding school and European and native orphanages at Bankipore, while each of the other missions in addition to evangelistic work maintains some schools.

General
agricul-
tural con-
ditions.

The agricultural conditions are fairly uniform throughout, but the Bihâr sub-division is for the most part lower than the rest of the District and is better adapted for the cultivation of

rice, while the Bārḥ sub-division is more suited to *rabi* crops. The most naturally productive soil is the *diāra* land along the bank of the Ganges, but the most valuable of all is the fertile high land in the vicinity of villages, where well irrigation can be practised, and vegetables, poppy and other profitable crops are sown.

The salient agricultural statistics for 1903-04 are reproduced below, areas being in square miles.

Chief
agricul-
tural
statistics
and
principal
crops.

SUB-DIVISION.	Total.	Cultivated.	Culturable waste.	Irrigated.
Bankipore ...	334	240	12	10
Dinapore ...	424	311	15	60
Bārḥ ...	526	368	18	...
Bihār ...	791	584	27	...
Total ...	2,076	1,529	72	70

It is estimated that 1 per cent. of the cultivated area is twice cropped. Rice is the staple food crop, covering 338 square miles. It is sown in June and reaped in December; in low-lying marsh lands sowing is commenced as early as April. The greater portion of it is transplanted, but on inferior lands it is sown broad-cast. Of other food-crops, wheat (202 square miles), barley (127 square miles), *jowār* (20 square miles), *marua* (97 square miles), maize (189 square miles), gram (149 square miles) and other pulses (175 square miles) are widely grown. Maize forms the principal food of the lower classes, except in the Bihār sub-division where *marua* takes its place. Maize and *rahar* are frequently sown together, the maize being harvested in September and the *rahar* in March. Oilseeds are grown on 74 square miles, while of special crops the most important is poppy (27 square miles). The poppy cultivated is exclusively the white variety (*Papaver somniferum*), and the crop, which requires great attention, has to be grown on land which can be highly manured and easily irrigated. Potatoes are also grown extensively and are exported in large quantities, the Patna potato having acquired more than a local reputation. Little use has been made of the provisions of the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts; Rs. 2,800 was advanced under the former Act during the scarcity of 1897.

In addition to the common country cattle, two varieties Cattle are bred, one a cross between the Hānsi and the local stocks, and the other with a strong English strain known as the Bankipore breed. The former class are large massive animals, and the bullocks do well for carts or ploughs, though the cows are not very good milkers. The Bankipore breed is the

residue of an English stock imported originally some 50 years ago. The cows are excellent milkers, but the bullocks are not heavy or strong enough for draught purposes. The breed has fallen off greatly of late years through in-breeding and the want of new blood, but the District board has recently imported two Jersey bulls from Australia. Bullocks from Tirhut are largely used for ploughing. Pasture grounds are very scarce, and the cattle are usually fed with chopped straw or maize stalks with *bhūsa* (chaff) and pulse, or with linseed cake when available. Persons wishing to buy horses or cattle usually go to the Sonpur fair in Sāran or the Barahpur fair in Shāhābād, a fair at Bihār with an attendance of 5,000 being the only cattle fair held in Patna District. Of other fairs, that held at Rājgīr is by far the most important.

Irrigation. The whole District depends largely on irrigation. In the head-quarters and Dinapore sub-divisions the Patna Canal, a branch of the Son Canals system, irrigates an area of 70 square miles, and supplies most of the needs of the people. The length of the main canal (in the District) is 42½ miles, that of the parallel channels 24 miles and that of the distributaries 161 miles. In the Bihār sub-division an extensive system of private irrigation works fed from the local rivers is maintained by the zamindars. Each zamindār has vested rights in a certain quantity of river water, which he carefully stores by means of embankments and distributes through reservoirs and channels to his ryots. In this subdivision it is estimated that the area thus irrigated is about 437 square miles out of a total cultivated area of 584 square miles. The system works admirably as long as the rivers which feed the irrigation works bring down their normal quantity of water, but a serious drought, both locally and in the hills of Chotā Nāgpur where these rivers rise, means an almost complete failure of crops. The absence of a proper system of managing the head of supply has caused many old streams to silt up and rendered useless some of the distributing channels. Well irrigation is universally used for vegetable and poppy cultivation, and occasionally for irrigating the *rabi* crops; one well will irrigate about 2 acres of land. Irrigation from tanks is seldom practised.

Arts and manufactures. Carpets, brocades, embroidery, pottery, brass-work, toys, fireworks, lac ornaments, gold and silver wire and leaf, glass-ware, boots and shoes, and cabinets are made in Patna city, carpets in Sultānganj, Pīrbahar and Chauk, and embroidery and brocade work in the Chauk and Khwāja Kalan thānas. Durable furniture and cabinets are made at Dinapore. The manufactures of the Bārīh sub-division are jessamine oil (*chameli*), coarse cloth and brass and bell-metal utensils, and of the Bihār sub-division soap, silk fabrics, tubes for *hukkas*, muslin, cotton cloth and

brass and iron ware. Apart from hand industries, certain articles, such as stools and tables, are made in the workshops of the Bihār school of engineering, and chests for packing opium in the saw mills of the Patna opium factory. Opium is manufactured by Government at a factory in Patna city. Some foundries are at work in Bankipore and Dinapore, and an ice and aerated waters factory has been erected at Bankipore.

The principal imports are rice, paddy, salt, coal, kerosene oil, Commerce. European cotton piece-goods and gunny bags; and the principal exports wheat, linseed, pulses, mustard seed, hides, sugar, tobacco and opium. A large amount of trade is carried by the railway, but the bulk of it is still transported by river. Patna city, with its 7 or 8 miles of river frontage in the rains and 4 miles in the dry season, is the great centre for all the river-borne trade. It is by far the largest mart in the District, and its commanding position for both rail and river traffic makes it one of the principal commercial centres of Bengal. Goods received by rail are there transferred to country boats, bullock carts, etc., to be distributed throughout the neighbourhood, which in return sends its produce to be railed to Calcutta and elsewhere. The river trade is carried by country boats and river steamers between Patna and Calcutta and other places on the Ganges and Nadiā rivers, and by country boats between Patna and Nepal. Trade has declined very greatly of late years, largely owing to the reduced freight charged by railways on goods booked direct to Calcutta. Other important markets are DINAPORE, BIHAR, BARRH, MOKAMEH, Islāmpur, FARWA and HILSA. The principal trading castes are Telis, Baniyās and Agarwāls. The transport by river is mostly in the hands of Musalmāns, Tiyaṛs and Mallāhs, while the road traffic is almost monopolized by Goālās and Kurmīs.

The main line of the East Indian Railway runs through the north of the District for 84 miles from east to west, entering it at Dumrā station and leaving it at the Son bridge. The chief Railways and roads. stations are at Mokameh, Barrh, Bakhtiyārpur, Patna, Bankipore, and Dinapore. From Bankipore one branch line runs to Gayā, and another to Digha Ghāt in connection with the Bengal and North-Western Railway ferry-steamer which crosses the Ganges to the terminus of that railway at Sonpur. A third branch line from Mokameh to Mokameh Ghāt establishes another connection with the Bengal and North-Western Railway. A light railway (18 miles in length) connects Bakhtiyārpur and Bihār. Exclusivē of 673 miles of village tracks, the District contains 614 miles of road. Of these 132 miles are metalled; 10 miles are maintained from Provincial, and 17 from municipal funds, and the remainder are kept up by the District board. The chief road crosses the north of the District through Barrh, Patna city, Bankipore and Dinapore, and leads to Monghyr on the east and Arrah on the west. Other

important roads are those from Bankipore to Palāman, from Bankipore to Gayā, from Fatwā to Gayā and from Bakhtiyārpur through Bihār to Hazāribāgh.

Water
communi-
cations.

The Ganges and the Son are the only rivers navigable throughout the year. The former is navigable for steamers and daily services run between Digha and Goalundo, Digha and Buxar, and Digha and Barhaj, with an extended run every fourth day to Ajodhya. Paddle steamers ply from Digha to Goalundo, but above Digha there are shallows and only stern-wheelers can be used. The passenger traffic consists principally of labourers going to Eastern Bengal in search of work, while the goods traffic is mostly in grain, sugar and its products and piece-goods. The Patna Canal is navigable, and a large number of bamboos are brought down by it to Patna. A bi-weekly service runs on it between Khagaul (Dinapore railway station) and Mahābalipur in the head-quarters sub-division *via* Bikram. Several ferries cross the Ganges, the most important being those from Bankipore and Patna.

Famine.

The District is not ordinarily liable to famine, and even in 1896-97 only local scarcity in the Bārḥ and Bihār sub-divisions was felt. Test works were opened, but were closed almost at once. The total amount spent on relief was only Rs. 31,000.

District
sub-divi-
sions and
staff.

The District is divided into 5 sub-divisions, BANKIPORE, BIHAR, BARRU, PATNA city, and DINAPORE. The staff subordinate to the District Magistrate-Collector at head-quarters consists of a Joint-Magistrate, an Assistant Magistrate and 7 Deputy Magistrate-Collectors. The other sub-divisions are each in charge of a European officer, in the case of Bihār a Deputy Magistrate-Collector, and in the case of Bārḥ, Patna city and Dinapore a member of the Indian Civil Service. The sub-divisional officers of Bārḥ and Bihār are each assisted by a sub-deputy magistrate-collector.

Civil and
criminal
justice.

The courts for the disposal of civil work are those of the District Judge, who is also the Sessions Judge, 3 Sub-Judges and 3 Munsifs at Patna and one Munsif at Bihār, while the Cantonment Magistrate at Dinapore is vested with the powers of a Small Cause Court Judge. Criminal courts include those of the Sessions Judge, District Magistrate, and the above mentioned Joint, Assistant, and Deputy Magistrates. The majority of the cases which come before the courts are of a petty nature. Both burglary and robbery are however more common than in the other Districts of the Division. Riots are also numerous; they are generally connected with land disputes or with disputes arising out of cattle trespass or questions of irrigation.

Land
revenue.

Under the Muhammadans the District formed part of *sūlah* Bihār. After it passed under British rule the principal feature of its land revenue history has been the remarkable extent to which the sub-division of estates has gone on. In 1790 there were 1,230 separate estates on the rolls held by 1,280 registered proprietors

and coparceners, the total land revenue in that year amounting to 4.33 lakhs. In 1865 the Bihār sub-division with 796 estates was added to the District, and 4 years later 19 estates were transferred from Patna to Tirhut. This brought the District practically to its present dimensions. In 1870-71 the number of estates was 6,075, while the number of registered proprietors had increased to 37,500 and the revenue to 15.08 lakhs. In 1903-04 the number of estates had still further increased to 12,928 and of proprietors to 107,381, while the current land revenue demand was 14.97 lakhs. The sub-division of estates has added greatly to the difficulty of collecting the revenue and of keeping the accounts connected therewith. The average area held by each ryot, as shown in the latest settlement papers of certain Government estates, varies considerably in different parts of the District, ranging from 1.47 acres in the Bihār to 4.76 acres in the Bārh sub-division for ordinary holdings, and between 7.30 acres in Dinapore and 13.04 acres in the head-quarters sub-division for *diāra* or river-side lands. The rents of homestead land are between Rs. 6 and Rs. 24 per acre. The average rate for clayey soils is about Rs. 5, while land in which sand predominates lets for about half that amount. The best *diāra* lands fetch as much as Rs. 30 per acre, and the worst, where the soil consists chiefly of sand, as little as 12 annas. The rent of this class of land is higher than it would otherwise be owing to the fact that in many cases the tenant has no occupancy right. About two-thirds of the Bihār sub-division is held under the *bhaoli* or produce rent system. Three forms of this system prevail, viz., *dānabandi* where the value of the produce is estimated and the equivalent of the landlord's share paid in cash or rice, *batai* where the actual produce is divided, and a fixed payment of rice and *dāl*. The last is comparatively rare. In the case of *dānabandi* and *batai* the shares are supposed to be equal, but actually the landlord gets more than half. A common proportion is known as nine-seven, i.e., out of every 16 seers the landlord takes nine and the tenant seven. The ryot always gets the straw and other bye-products. The following table shows the collections of land revenue and of total revenue, under the principal heads, in thousands of rupees:—

		1880-81.	1890-91.	1900-01.	1903-04.
Land revenue	...	14.83	14.76	14.91	15.07
Total revenue	...	27.73	28.03	31.85	32.68

Outside the municipalities of PATNA, BĀRH, BINAR and DINAPORE, local affairs are managed by the District board, with subordinate local boards in each sub-division. The District

Local and
municipal
govern-
ment.

board has guaranteed 4 per cent. interest on the capital (8 lakhs) of the Bihār-Bakhtiyārpur light railway, but it is entitled to receive half of any profits in excess of that amount. In 1903-04 its income was Rs. 2,86,000, of which Rs. 2,09,000 was derived from rates, and the expenditure was Rs. 2,47,000, including Rs. 1,46,000 spent on civil works and Rs. 44,000 on education.

Police and
jails.

The District contains 28 police stations and 31 outposts, and the force subordinate to the District Superintendent of Police consisted in 1903 of 6 inspectors, 49 sub-inspectors, 88 head constables and 1,195 constables; there was also a rural police force of 176 *daffadārs* and 3,240 *chaukidārs*. The District jail at Bankipore has accommodation for 453 prisoners, and subsidiary jails at Bārh and Bihār for 28 and 25 respectively.

Educa-
tion.

Of the population 6·4 per cent (12·3 males and 0·6 females) could read and write in 1901. The total number of pupils under instruction increased from about 27,000 in 1883-84 to 43,941 in 1890-91; it fell to 38,162 in 1900-01, but rose again in 1903-04 when 41,533 boys and 1,689 girls were at school, being respectively 34·4 and 1·3 per cent. of the children of school-going age. The number of educational institutions, public and private, in that year was 1,829, including two Arts colleges, 25 secondary schools, 1,255 primary schools and 547 other special schools. The expenditure on education was 3·51 lakhs, of which 1·45 lakhs was met from Provincial funds, Rs. 44,000 from District funds, Rs. 7,000 from municipal funds and 1·16 lakhs from fees. The chief educational institutions are the Patna college, the Patna medical college and the Bihār school of Engineering at Patna, the Bihār National college and the Female High school at BANKIPORE, and St. Michael's college for Europeans and Eurasians at Kurji situated half way between Bankipore and Dinapore. There is a fine public library at Bankipore.

Medical.

In 1903 the District contained 15 dispensaries, of which 5 had accommodation for 163 in-door patients. The cases of 142,000 out-patients and 2,500 in-patients were treated, and 12,000 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 39,000, of which Rs. 3,000 was met by Government contributions, Rs. 19,000 from local and Rs. 14,000 from municipal funds, and Rs. 3,000 from subscriptions. A lunatic asylum at Patna has accommodation for 206 males and 56 females.

Vaccina-
tion.

Vaccination is compulsory only in municipal areas. During 1903-04 the number of persons successfully vaccinated was 30,000, or 21·7 per thousand of the population.

[M. Martin, *Eastern India*, 1838; J. R. Hand, *Early English Administration of Bihār*, Calcutta, 1894; and Sir W. W. Hunter, *Statistical Account of Bengal*, vol. xi, 1877.]

Bankipore Sub-division.—Head-quarters sub-division of the Patna District, Bengal, lying between 25° 12' and 25° 40' N., and

84° 42' and 85° 17' E., with an area of 334 square miles. Owing to plague mortality and defective enumeration consequent on the prevalence of that disease at the time of the census of 1901, the population recorded in that year was only 341,054, compared with 404,304 in 1891, the density being 1,021 persons to the square mile. The sub-division is a flat alluvial tract, which is bounded on the north by the Ganges; it contains 2 towns, PATNA (population 134,785) and PHULWARI (3,415), and 975 villages. Its head-quarters are at BANKIPORE, which is included within the municipal limits of Patna city.

Dinapore Sub-division.—Sub-division of the Patna District, Bengal, lying between 25° 31' and 25° 44' N., and 84° 48' and 85° 5' E., with an area of 424 square miles. Owing to plague its recorded population in 1901 was only 315,697, compared with 352,178 in 1891, the density being 745 persons to the square mile. The sub-division consists of a tract in the north-west of the district, bounded on the north by the Ganges and on the west by the Son; the land is a dead level, and the soil is alluvial. It contains 2 towns, DINAPORE, its head-quarters (population 33,699), and KHAGAUL (8,126), and 791 villages. Dinapore is a military station in the Lucknow division of the Eastern Command; its sepoy garrison was implicated in the Mutiny of 1857. The *dargāh* of Shāh Daulat at MANER, completed in 1616, is a fine specimen of Mughal architecture.

Barh Sub-division.—North-eastern sub-division of the Patna District, Bengal, lying between 25° 10' and 25° 35' N., and 85° 11' and 86° 4' E., with an area of 526 square miles. Owing to plague its recorded population in 1901 was only 365,327, compared with 408,256 in 1891, the density being 695 persons to the square mile. The sub-division consists of a long and somewhat narrow strip of country to the south of the Ganges, which forms a level plain intersected by tributaries of the Ganges. It contains 2 towns, BARH (population 12,164), its head-quarters, and MOKAMEH (13,861) an important railway junction, and 1,075 villages.

Bihār Sub-division.—Southern sub-division of the Patna District, Bengal, lying between 24° 57' and 25° 26' N., and 85° 9' and 85° 44' E., with an area of 791 square miles. Owing to plague its population in 1901 was only 602,907, compared with 608,672 in 1891, the density being 762 persons to the square mile. The greater part of the sub-division is a low-lying alluvial plain, which is broken to the south by the Rajgir Hills. It contains one town, BIHAR (45,063), its head-quarters, and 2,111 villages. Bihār is supposed to have been the capital of the ancient kingdom of Magadha, but its early history is involved in obscurity. It contains interesting Buddhist remains, chiefly at BARAGAON, where numerous mounds bury the ruins of Nālanda (a famous

seat of learning in the days of the Pāl kings), GIRIAK and RAJGIR. PAWAPURI contains 3 Jain temples. HILSA near Patna station on the East Indian Railway is an important market.

Bakhtiyārpur.—Village in the Bārhi sub-division of the Patna District, Bengal, situated in 25° 27' N. and 85° 32' E. on the East Indian Railway. Population (1901) 234. It is 22 miles from Patna and 310 miles from Calcutta, and is the nearest station for Bihār town, with which it is connected by a light railway.

Bankipore Town (Bānkipur).—Head-quarters of Patna District and Division, Bengal, situated in 25° 37' N. and 85° 8' E. on the right bank of the Ganges. It forms part of the Patna municipality, and is the western suburb of that city in which most of the Europeans stationed there reside. Their houses and the police lines, judicial courts and other public buildings extend along the river bank. Bankipore possesses a spacious *maidān* and a race course. To the south of this lies the railway station, which is 338 miles from Calcutta and is the junction for the Patna-Gayā line and also for the Digha Ghāt branch line connecting the East Indian with the Bengal and North-Western Railways. At once the most prominent and the most curious building in Bankipore is the old Government granary or *golā*, a brick building in the shape of a bee-hive, with two winding staircases on the outside, which have been ascended on horse-back; it was erected in 16 years after the great famine of 1769-70 as a store house for grain. This store house has never been filled, though during the scarcity of 1874 a good deal of grain was temporarily stored here. In times of famine, proposals to fill it are still made by the native press, but the loss from damp, rats and insects renders such a scheme of storing grain wasteful and impracticable. The jail, which is situated near the railway station, has accommodation for 453 prisoners, chiefly employed in the preparation of mustard oil, carpets and road metal. The Bihār National college founded in 1883, teaches up to the B. A. standard, and the Bankipore Female High school, founded in 1867, teaches up to the Entrance standard of the Calcutta University.

Baragaon.—Village in the Bihār sub-division of the Patna District, Bengal, situated in 25° 8' N. and 85° 26' E. Population (1901) 597. With the neighbouring village of Bogampur, Baragaon contains masses of ruins. It has been identified with Vihāragrām on the outskirts of which, more than a thousand years ago, flourished the Nālanda monastery, at that time the most magnificent and the most celebrated seat of Buddhist learning in the world. It was here that the Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsiang spent a great portion of his pilgrimage in receiving religious instruction. [*Archaeological Survey Reports of India*, vol. i, pp. 16-34.]

Barh Town.—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name in Patna District, Bengal, situated in 25° 29' N. and 85° 43' E. on the Ganges. Population (1901) 12,164. Barh is a station on the East Indian Railway 299 miles from Calcutta, and has a considerable trade in country produce. Jessamino oil (*chameli*) of a superior quality is manufactured. Barh was constituted a municipality in 1870. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 6,700 and the expenditure Rs. 6,600. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 10,400, mainly from a tax on persons (or property tax), and the expenditure was Rs. 9,600. The town contains the usual sub-divisional offices, a sub-jail with accommodation for 28 prisoners, and an English cemetery.

Bihār Town.—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name in Patna District, Bengal, situated in 25° 11' N. and 85° 31' E. on the Panchāna river. It is supposed to have been the capital of the ancient kingdom of Magadha, but its early history is involved in obscurity. The remains of an old fort covering 312 acres of ground contain a profusion of ruined Buddhist and Brahmanical buildings, which prove the site to be a very old one. Among these may be mentioned the remains of the great *Vihāra* or college of Buddhist learning from which the town has derived its name. Many ancient Muhammadan mosques and tombs are also found in the city, the most important of which is the tomb of Shāh Sharif-ud-dīn Makhḍūm. The population which was 44,295 in 1872 increased to 48,968 in 1881, but fell again to 47,723 in 1891 and to 46,063 in 1901; of the last number 29,392 were Hindus and 15,119 Musalmāns. Bihār is connected by a light railway with Bakhtiyārpur on the East Indian Railway. It was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 23,000 and the expenditure Rs. 22,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 32,000, including Rs. 19,000 derived from a tax on persons (or property tax) and Rs. 6,000 from a conservancy rate, and the expenditure was Rs. 31,000. Bihār contains the usual public buildings, the sub jail having accommodation for 25 prisoners. [*Epigraphica Indica, Archaeological Survey of India*, vol. ii, pp. 291-294; *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, vol. xxxvii, p. 7, and vol. xii. p. 300.]

Dinapore Town (Danapur).—Town in the Patna District, Bengal, situated in 25° 38' N. and 86° 3' E. 3½ miles from the Dinapore railway station. Population (1901) 33,699, including 10,841 within cantonment boundaries. Of its inhabitants 24,575 are Hindus, 8,105 Musalmāns and 1,019 Christians. The military force ordinarily quartered at Dinapore, which belongs to the Lucknow division of the Eastern command, consists of 4 companies of British infantry, 6 companies of native infantry and a field battery. The town with the sub-division is under a

sub-divisional officer and the cantonment under a special Cantonment Magistrate. The road from Dinapore to Bankipore is lined with houses and cottages; in fact Dinapore, Bankipore and Patna may be regarded as forming one continuous narrow city hemmed in between the Ganges and the railway. The town is noted for its cabinetware; it also contains a foundry, and printing and oil presses. It was constituted a municipality in 1887. The average municipal income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 17,000 and the expenditure Rs. 14,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 27,000, including Rs. 11,000 derived from a tax on houses and lands, and the expenditure was Rs. 20,000. The average annual receipts and expenditure of the cantonment fund in the 10 years ending in 1901 were Rs. 21,600 and Rs. 21,700 respectively; the income in 1903-04 was Rs. 28,000 and the expenditure Rs. 26,000.

The Mutiny of 1857 in Patna District originated at Dinapore. The three sepoy regiments stationed there broke into open revolt in July and went off *en masse*, the majority effecting their escape into Shāhābād District, where they shortly afterwards besieged Arrah. An expedition which was sent from Dinapore to relieve them failed disastrously, but was marked by acts of individual heroism; an account of this attempt will be found in the article on PATNA District.

Fatwā.—Village in the Bārī sub-division of the Patna District, Bengal, situated in 25° 30' N. and 85° 19' E. on the East Indian Railway, 7 miles from Patna at the junction of the Pūnpūn with the Ganges. Population (1901) 857. *Tussar* cloth is manufactured, and table cloths, towels and handkerchiefs are woven by Jolāhās.

Giriak.—Village in the Bihār sub-division of the Patna District, Bengal, situated in 25° 2' N. and 85° 32' E. on the Panchāna river, and connected with Bihār by a metalled road. Population (1901) 243. South-west of the village, and on the opposite side of the river, stands the peak at the end of the double range of hills commencing near Gayā, which General Cunningham identifies with Fa Hian's solitary mountain, suggesting at the same time that its name is derived from Ekigri, or one hill, but his views have not met with universal acceptance. Dr. Buchanan-Hamilton has described the ruins of Giriak, which are full of archaeological interest. They were originally ascended from the north-east, and remains still exist of a road about 12 feet wide, paved with large blocks, and winding so as to procure a moderate gradient. At the west end of the ridge, a steep brick slope leads up to a platform, on which are some granite pillars, probably part of an ancient temple. East of the ridge is an area 45 feet square, called the *chabutra* of Jarāsandha, the centre of which is occupied by a low square pedestal supporting a solid brick column

68 feet in circumference and 55 feet in height. It is popularly believed that Krishna crossed the river at this point on his way to challenge Jarāsandha to combat, and a bathing festival is annually held at the spot in the month of Kārtik to commemorate the event. [M. Martin, *Eastern India*, vol. i, pp. 78-80; and *Archæological Survey of India Reports*, vol. i, pp. 16-34 and vol. viii.]

Hilsā.—Village in the Bihār sub-division of the Patna District, Bengal, situated in 25° 19' N. and 85° 17' E. Population (1901) 2,478. It is 13 miles distant from the Patna station on the East Indian Railway, with which it is connected by road. Hilsā is a large market where a brisk trade in food grains and oilseeds is carried on with Patna, Gaya, Hazāribāgh and Palāmau.

Khagaul.—Town in the Dinapore sub-division of the Patna District, Bengal, situated in 25° 35' N. and 85° 3' E., a short distance to the south of Dinapore. Population (1901) 8,126. The Dinapore railway station is just outside the town, which has only grown into importance since the opening of the railway. It is the head-quarters of a company of East Indian Railway volunteers.

Maner.—Village in the Dinapore sub-division of the Patna District, Bengal, situated in 25° 38' N. and 84° 53' E. a few miles below the junction of the Son with the Ganges, 10 miles from Dinapore cantonment and 5 miles from Bihtā station on the East Indian Railway. Population (1901) 2,765. Maner is a very old place, being mentioned in the Ain-i-Akbari. The chief antiquities are the tombs of Makhdūm Yahia Maner and of Makhdūm Shāh Daulat. The latter, which was built in 1616, is well known. It stands on a raised platform, and at each corner rises a slender pillar of graceful proportions and exquisite beauty. It has a great dome, and the ceiling is covered with delicately carved texts from the Korān. Two annual fairs are held at Maner.

Mokameh (Mukāmd).—Town in the Bārī sub-division of the Patna District, Bengal, situated in 25° 25' N. and 85° 53' E. on the right bank of the Ganges. Population (1901) 13,861. It is a station on the East Indian Railway 283 miles distant from Calcutta, and is a junction for passengers proceeding by the Bengal and North-Western Railway. The town contains a large number of European and Eurasian railway employes, and is an important centre of trade.

Patna City (Azimābād).—Chief city of Patna District, Bengal, situated in 25° 37' N. and 85° 10' E. on the right bank of the Ganges a few miles below its junction with the Son. Included within the municipal limits is Bankipore, the administrative head-quarters of Patna District and Patna Division. The city is situated on the East Indian Railway 332 miles from Calcutta, and though its prosperity has somewhat diminished of

late years, it still possesses an important trade, its commanding position for both rail and river traffic making it one of the principal commercial centres of Bengal, and it is still, after Calcutta, the largest town in the Province. Buchanan Hamilton estimated the population at 312,000, but his calculation referred to an area of 20 square miles, whereas the city, as now defined, extends over only 9 square miles. The population returned in 1872 was 158,900, but the accuracy of the enumeration was doubted, and it was thought that the real number of inhabitants was considerably greater. It is thus probable that the growth indicated by the census of 1881, which showed a population of 170,654, was fictitious. There was a falling off of 5,462 persons between 1881 and 1891, while the census of 1901 gave a population of only 134,785, which represents a further decrease of more than 18 per cent. This was due mainly to the plague, which was raging at the time of the census and not only killed a great number but drove many more away. A second enumeration taken 5 months later disclosed a population of 153,739. The decrease on the figures of 1891, which still amounted to 7 per cent., may be ascribed, in addition to the actual loss by deaths from plague, to a declining prosperity due to the gradual decay of the river-borne trade. The population at the regular census of 1901 included 99,381 Hindus, 34,622 Musalmāns and 683 Christians.

Early
history.

Patna has a very ancient history. It is to be identified with the Pātaliputra of ancient India, the Palibothra of the Greeks and the Kusumapura of the early Gupta emperors. Megasthenes describes the city as situated on the south bank of the Ganges at the confluence of another large river *Erannobos* (the Greek form of *Hiranya-Vāhu*) or Son, which formerly joined the Ganges immediately below the modern city of Patna. The tradition of this junction still lingers among the villagers to the south-west of Patna, where there is an old channel called the *marā* (or dead) Son.

Regarding the origin of the city various legends exist. The most popular ascribes it to a prince Putraka, who created it with a stroke of his magic staff and named it in honour of his wife the princess Pātali. This story is found in the *Katha Sarit Sagar* and in Hiuen Tsiang's travels. Diodorus attributes the foundation of Palibothra to Herakles, by whom perhaps he may mean Balarām, the brother of Krishna. According to the *Vāyu Purāna* and the *Sutapitaka*, the city of Kusumapura or Pātaliputra was founded by the Sisunāga king Udāya, who ruled in Magadha towards the end of the 5th century B.C., but the Buddhist accounts place its origin in the reign of Udāya's grandfather Ajātasatru. When Buddha crossed the Ganges on his last journey from Rājagriha to Vaiśālī, the two ministers of Ajātasatru, king of Magadha, were engaged in building a fort at the village of Pātali as a check upon the ravages of the people

of Vriji, and he predicted that the fort would become a great city. According to this account Pataliputra was founded in 477 B. C. The Nandas who overthrew the Sisunāgas removed the capital of Magadha to Pataliputra from Rājagriha, the modern Rājgir, in the south-east of the Patna District. Under Chandra Gupta, the Greek Sandrokottos, who established the Maurya dynasty in 321 B. C., Pataliputra became the capital of northern India. It was during the reign of this king that in 305 B. C. or a little later, Megasthenes, whose account of it has been preserved by Arrian, visited the city. He says that Palibothra, which he describes as the capital city of India, is distant from the Indus 10,000 stadia, i.e., 1,149 miles, or only 6 miles in excess of the actual distance. He adds that the length of the city was 80, and the breadth 15 stadia; that it was surrounded by a ditch 30 cubits deep; and that the walls were adorned with 570 towers and 64 gates. According to this account, the circumference of the city would be 190 stadia or 24 miles. Strabo, Pliny and Arrian call the people Prasii, which has been variously interpreted as 'eastern' (*prachya*) people, or the men of Parāsa, a name applied to Magadha, derived from the *palāsa* tree (*Hutea frondosa*).

Asoka ascended the throne in 272 B. C., and was crowned at Pataliputra in 269 B. C. During his reign of 40 years he changed the outward appearance of Pataliputra. He replaced or supplemented the wooden walls by masonry ramparts, and filled his capital with palaces, monasteries and monuments, the sites of which have not, as was once thought, been washed away by the river, but still remain to be properly excavated and identified by archaeologists. Dr. Waddell has already shown that Bhiknapahārī, an artificial hill of brick *debris* over 40 feet high and about a mile in circuit, now crowned by the residence of one of the Nawābs of Patna, is identical with the hermitage hill built by Asoka for his brother Mahendra; a representation of the original is still kept at the north-east base of the hill, and is worshipped as the Bhikna Kunwār. The site of Asoka's new palace Dr. Waddell places at Sandalpur. South of this, near the railway, in Baland Bāgh is a curious big flat stone, to which the marvellous story still clings that it cannot be taken away but always returns to its place. This, in Dr. Waddell's opinion, is the actual and original stone bearing the footprint of Buddha which was seen and described by the Chinese pilgrims Fa Hien and Hsueh Tsiang. Fragments of a polished column, the outline of monastic cells, carved stones and other remains point to Kumrāhar as the site of the old palace. In the adjacent hamlet of Nayātala is a sculptured pillar of a pair of Mātṛis, or divine mothers, in the very old style seen in the Bhārhut sculptures and highly polished hard sandstone. In the land to the south, which is still called *Asobhuk* or Asoka's plot, are situated brick ruins known as Chotāpahārī and Barāpahārī.

(probably the hermitage hill of Upa Gupta who converted Asoka), while in the Pāṇchpahrī Dr. Waddell recognizes the 5 relic stupas of exceptional grandeur which Asoka is said to have built. According to traditions, the third Buddhist council at Pāṭaliputra was held in the 17th year of Asoka's reign. With the death of that monarch in 231 B. C. the city disappears from history for 530 years, during which period the first empire of Northern India was destroyed by the Scythians and Andhras. But in 319 A. D. the city, now under the name of Kusumapura, witnessed the birth of a second empire, that of the Gupta kings. Chandragupta I married a Licchavi princess of Pāṭaliputra. The date of his coronation, March 8, 319 A.D., marks the beginning of a new era in Indian history. Though Kusumapura is undoubtedly identical with Pāṭaliputra or Patna, yet of this second line of emperors not a single trace remains except a broken pillar which stands among some Muhammadan graves near the *dargāh*. Samudra Gupta, the son and successor of Chandragupta I, greatly enlarged the empire and removed the capital from Pāṭaliputra or Kusumapura westwards, but Pāṭaliputra was still a sacred place for the Buddhists. About 406, during the reign of Chandragupta II, Fa Hien, after visiting Upper India arrived at Pāṭaliputra, of which he gives a short description, and resided there for three years while learning to read the Sanskrit books and to converse in that language.

The next description of Patna is supplied by Hiuen Tsiang, who entered the city after his return from Nepal, in 637, more than a hundred years after the fall of the Gupta empire. At that time the kingdom of Magadha was subject to Harshavardhana, the great king of Kanauj. Hiuen Tsiang informs us that the old city called originally Kusumapura had been deserted for a long time and was in ruins. He gives the circumference at 70 li, or 11½ miles, exclusive of the new town of Pāṭaliputra.

Little is known of the medieval history of Patna. In the early years of Muhammadan rule the governor of the province resided at the city of Bihār. During Sher Shah's revolt Patna became an independent capital, but it was reduced to subjection by Akbar. Aurangzeb made his grandson Azim governor, and the city thus acquired the name of Azimabad. The two important events in the modern history of Patna city, namely, the massacre of 1763, and the mutiny of the troops at Dinapore cantonments in 1857, have been described in the account of Patna District. The old walled city of Patna extends about 1½ miles from east to west and three quarters of a mile from north to south. It is to this day very closely built, mainly with mud houses, but the old fortifications which surrounded the city have long since disappeared.

Municipality.

The city was constituted a municipality in 1864. The municipal limits include the suburb of Bankipore on the west.

The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was 2.18 lakhs and the expenditure 1.91 lakhs. In 1903-04 the income was 1.93 lakhs, including Rs. 83,000 from a tax on houses and lands, Rs. 21,000 from a conservancy rate, Rs. 16,000 from tolls, Rs. 13,000 from a tax on vehicles, and Rs. 35,000 as grants; the incidence of taxation was annas 14-5 per head of the population. In the same year the expenditure amounted to 1.74 lakhs, the chief items being Rs. 5,000 spent on lighting, Rs. 10,000 on drainage, Rs. 48,000 on conservancy, Rs. 20,000 on medical relief, Rs. 7,000 on a new hospital building, Rs. 31,000 on roads and Rs. 6,000 on education. A drainage scheme was carried out between 1893 and 1895 at a cost of 2.68 lakhs, but was defective owing to its being unaccompanied by any flushing scheme. Two complementary schemes were carried out in 1894 and 1900, by which $4\frac{1}{2}$ square miles out of the total area are now flushed.

For administrative purposes the city, excluding Bankipore, but including a few outlying villages known as the rural area of the City subdivision, has been constituted a sub-division under a City Magistrate, who holds his court at Gulzarbagh in the heart of the city. The courts and jail are situated at BANKIPORE. Patna is the head-quarters of the Commissioner and additional Commissioner, the Bihār Opium Agent, a Deputy Inspector-General of Police, a Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, and the Executive Engineer of the Eastern Son Division. The Patna college is a fine brick building at the west end of the city. Originally built by a native as a private residence, it was purchased by Government and converted into law courts. In 1857 the courts were removed to the present buildings at Bankipore; and in 1862 the college was established there. It possesses a chemical laboratory, and a law department and collegiate school are also attached to it. Close by is the Medical college, in front of which a new hospital has been erected. In this neighbourhood also stands the Oriental Library, founded by Maulvi Khuda Bakhsh Khān Bahādur, C.I.E., the present librarian, who has collected a number of valuable Persian and Arabic manuscripts. This library is subsidised by the Bengal Government, by the Nizām of Hyderābād, and by private subscriptions. Further east at Afzalpur, on the ground formerly occupied by the Dutch Factory at Patna, have been erected some fine buildings for the Bihār School of Engineering, which was opened in August 1900, out of funds originally collected to commemorate the visit of the Prince of Wales to Patna in 1876. It has a good workshop for practical work and the course of studies is the same as that of the apprentice department of the Civil Engineering college, Sibpur. About 3 miles further east, in the quarter called Gulzarbagh, the Government manufacture of opium is carried on. Patna is one of the two places in British

India where opium is manufactured by Government. The opium is made up into cakes weighing about 4 lb. and containing about 3 lb. of standard opium. These are packed in chests (40 in each) and sent to Calcutta whence most of them are exported to China. The opium buildings are on the old river bank, and are separated from the city by a high brick wall. Beyond Gulzarbāgh lies the city proper. The western gate is, according to its inscription, 5 miles from the *golā*, and 12 miles from Dinapore. South of the city, in the quarter called Sādikpur, a market has been made on the ground formerly occupied by the Wahābi rebels. Nearly opposite to the Roman Catholic Church is the grave where the bodies of Mir Kasim's victims were ultimately deposited. It is covered by a pillar, built partly of stone and partly of brick, with an inlaid tablet and inscription. The chief Muhammadan place of worship is the monument of Shāh Arzāni, who died here in 1623, and whose shrine is frequented both by Muhammadans and Hindus. An annual fair is held on the spot in the month of Zikad, lasting for three days and attracting about 5,000 votaries. Adjacent to the tomb is the Karbala, where 100,000 people attend during the Muharram festival. Close by is a tank dug by the saint, where once a year crowds of people assemble, and many of them bathe. The mosque of Sher Shāh is probably the oldest building in Patna and the *madrasa* of Saif Khān the handsomest. [L. A. Waddell, *Pataliputra*, Calcutta, 1892, and *Report on the excavations at Pataliputra*, Calcutta, 1903.]

Pāwāpurī (*Apāpāpurī*, the sinless town).—Village in the Bihār sub-division of the Patna District, Bengal. Population (1901) 311. Mahāvira, the last of the Jain patriarchs, is said to have been buried in the village, which possesses 3 Jain temples and is a great place of pilgrimage for the Jains.

Phulwāri.—Town in the head-quarters sub-division of the Patna District, Bengal, situated in 26° 34' N. and 85° 5' E. Population (1901) 3,415.

Rājgir.—Ruins in the Bihār sub-division of the Patna District, Bengal, situated in 25° 2' N. and 85° 26' E. Population (1901) 1,575. It was identified by Dr. Buchanan-Hamilton with Rājagriha, the residence of Buddha and capital of the ancient Magadha; and by General Cunningham with Kusa-nagara-pura ("the town of the kus grass"), visited by Hiuen Tsiang and called by him Kiu-she-lo-pu-lo Rājagriha, which means "the royal residence," was also known as Giribājā, "the hill surrounded"; and under this name the capital of Jarāsandha, king of Magadha, is mentioned both in the Rāmāyana and the Mahābhārata. It is also described by Fa Hian and Hiuen Tsiang, the Chinese pilgrims, the latter of whom gives an account of the hot springs found at this place. The five hills surrounding the city, mentioned in the

Mahābhārata and in the Pāli annals, have been examined by General Cunningham. The first, Baibhār, is identified with the Webhars mountain of the Pāli annals, on the side of which was the famous Sattapanni Cave, where the first Buddhist synod was held in 543 B.C. The second hill, Ratnāgiri, is that called by Fa Hian "The Fig-tree Cave," where Buddha meditated after his meals, and is identical with the Rishigiri of the Mahābhārata, and the Pandao of the Pāli annals. A paved zigzag road leads to a small temple on the summit of this mountain, which is still used by Jains. The third hill, Bipula, is clearly the Wepullo of the Pāli chronicles and the Chait-yaka of the Mahābhārata. The other two hills have Jain temples.

Traces of the outer wall around the ancient town of Rājagriha may still be seen, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles in circumference. The new Rājgir is about two-thirds of a mile north of the old town. According to Buddhist records, it was built by Srenika or Bimbāsara, the father of Ajātasatru, the contemporary of Buddha. Dr. Buchanan-Hamilton stated that the town stood upon the north-west corner of a fort, which is an irregular pentagon in form and apparently of great antiquity. At the south-west extremity are traces of a more modern fort, with stone walls, which might have been a kind of citadel. It occupies a space of about 600 yards. The eastern and northern faces had no ditch, but there is a strong stone wall about 18 feet thick, with circular projections at intervals. The eastern approach to Rājagriha was protected by a stone wall, 20 feet in width and running zigzag up the southern slopes of the hills. A watch-tower on the extreme eastern point of the range corresponded with a similar tower immediately over the city. One tower still exists, and also the foundations of the second tower. South of the ancient city of Rājagriha are found inscriptions on huge slabs of stone, which form a natural pavement. So far as is known the characters have never been deciphered. [*Archæological Survey of India*, vol. i, pp. 16—34, and vol. viii, pp. 85—100.]

Silao.—Village in the Bihār sub-division of the Patnā District, Bengal, situated in $25^{\circ} 5' N.$ and $85^{\circ} 24' E.$ Population (1901) 1,502. It is large grain mart where the best table rice in Patna is sold, and is also noted for its sweetmeats and parched rice sold to pilgrims en route to Rājgir.

Gaya District.—District in the Patna Division of Bengal, lying between $24^{\circ} 17'$ and $25^{\circ} 19' N.$ and $84^{\circ} 0'$ and $86^{\circ} 3' E.$ with an area of 4,712 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the Patna District; on the east by Monghyr and Hazāribāgh; on the south by Hazāribāgh and Palāmau; and on the west by Shāhābād, from which it is separated by the Son river. Boundaries, configuration, and hill systems.

The southern part of the District is elevated and occupies the declivity from the Chotā Nāgpur plateau, from which numerous

ridges and spurs project into the plains. About ten miles south of Gayā town the surface becomes more level, but semi-isolated ranges stand out from the plains, and still further to the north separate ridges and isolated peaks crop up here and there. The chief hills are: the Durvāsarishi and Mahābar hills in the south of the Nawāda sub-division, which rise to a height of 2,202 and 1,832 feet above sea level, the former being the highest point in the District; the Māher (1,612 feet) and Hasrā hills, the Ganjās and Bhindās, and the Jethian range running from the neighbourhood of Buddh-Gayā to Rājgīr and Giriak, and the Pahra, Chorki and Gayā hills in the head-quarters sub-division; the Pawai, Dugul and Pachār hills in the Aurangābād sub-division; and the Barābar and Kowādel hills in the Jahānābād sub-division. The general level falls somewhat rapidly towards the north, and numerous hill streams from the high lands of Chotā Nāgpur flow northwards across the District in more or less parallel courses. The chief of these from east to west are the Sakri, Dhanarji, Tilayā, Dhādhār, Paimār, Phalgu, Jamunā, Morhar, Dhawā, Madar, Adri and Pūnpūn, and the Son, which forms the western boundary of the District. The last named rivers are the only two which reach the Ganges. The water brought down by the other streams is nearly all used up in the network of *prais* or artificial irrigation channels; the Dhawā and Madar are tributaries of the Pūnpūn, and the Morhar and Phalgu also eventually join that river; while other streams, after being thus diverted for the purposes of irrigation, cannot be traced or mingle in the rainy season in a huge *jhil* in the Bārḥ sub-division (of Patna). The Phalgu, which is formed by the junction of the Lālājān and Mohana rivers about two miles below Buddh-Gayā, flows past the town of Gayā, and then northwards past the foot of the Barābar hills. This river and the Pūnpūn are regarded by the Hindus as sacred streams, and to bathe in them is the duty of every pilgrim who performs the Gayā *tirtha* or pilgrimage. The most important river is the Son, its bed being nearly as broad as that of the Ganges, though it becomes almost dry in the hot months. In the rains the current is very rapid and navigation difficult, in consequence of which the river is used only by small craft up to about twenty tons burthen for a few months in the year. Between Barun on the Gayā bank and Dehri on the Shāhābād side a stone causeway leads the Grand Trunk Road across the bed. Just above this causeway is the great anicut of the Son Canals system, and below the causeway the river is spanned by one of the longest railway bridges in the world comprising 98 spans of 100 feet each; it is made of iron girders laid on stone-built pillars.

Geology.

A considerable part of the District is occupied by the Gangotie alluvium, but older rocks rise above its level chiefly in the south

and east. These are composed for the most part of a foliated gneiss, consisting of a great variety of crystalline rocks forming parallel bands and known as the Bengal gneiss. It is a sub-division of the Archaean system which contains the oldest rocks of the earth's crust. Scattered at intervals amid the Bengal gneiss in the east of the District are several outcrops of another very ancient series, resembling that described in southern India under the name of Dhārwar schists and constituting another sub-division of the Archaean system. Owing to the predominance of massive beds of quartzite, these beds stand out as abrupt ridges and constitute all the most conspicuous hills of the District. Not only are these rocks everywhere altered by 'regional metamorphism,' caused by the great pressure that has thrown them into close-set synclinal and anticlinal folds as expressed by the elongated shape of the ridges and high dips of the strata with the inducement of slaty cleavage, but they have further been affected to a great extent by contact metamorphism from the intrusion of great masses of granite and innumerable veins of coarse granitic pegmatite, by which the slates have been further transformed into crystalline schists. In its more massive form the granite is relatively fine-grained and very homogeneous, and it weathers into great rounded hummocks that have suggested the name of "dome-gneiss" by which it is sometimes known. But it is the narrow sheets of the same intrusive group, where they cut across the metamorphosed schists as excessively coarse granitic pegmatites, that are of most practical importance on account of the mica which they contain.

The Rājgir hills, consisting of slaty schists and quartzites, are less metamorphosed, but contact effects are well seen in the Māher hills, and in the detached spurs forming the south-western continuation of the Rājgir range near Gaya, where idols and utensils are extensively wrought from the soft serpentinous rock of the converted schists.

The Talehar rocks which constitute the basement beds of the coal-bearing Gondwana series are seen at the small village of Gangti, 20 miles south-west by west of Sherghāti, and 4 miles west by south of Imānganj, in the bed of the Morhar river where they occupy a small outcrop entirely surrounded by alluvium. This outcrop is of great interest as indicating the possibility that coal-measures may exist beneath the alluvial formation in this part of the Gangetic plain.*

In the north the rice fields have the usual weeds of such Botany localities. Near villages there are often considerable groves of mango trees and palmyras (*Borassus flabelliformis*), some date

* T. H. Holland, *Mica Deposits of India*, Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India, vol. xxiv, Part I. The above account was contributed by Mr. E. Yredenburg, Deputy Superintendent, Geological Survey of India.

palms (*Phanix sylvestris*), and numerous more isolated examples of *Tamarindus* and other semi-spontaneous and more or less useful species. There are no Government forests, but the hills on the south are completely covered with dense jungle; here the fuel supply of the District is obtained and the lac industry is a considerable source of income to the landlords. The principal trees are the pipal (*Ficus religiosa*), nim (*Melia azadirachta*), banyan (*Ficus indica*), siris (*Albizia odoratissima*), mahua (*Bassia latifolia*), palas (*Butea frondosa*), sissu (*Dalbergia sissoo*), tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*), jannun (*Eugenia jambolana*), sal (*Shorea robusta*), babul (*Acacia arabica*), cotton tree (*Bombax malabaricum*), and kaktuā (*Terminalia arjuna*). Flowering shrubs and creepers grow luxuriantly in the hills after the rains, and during the cold weather wild plums and other small edible berries are common in these tracts and form part of the food supply of the poorer classes.

Fauna.

Tigers are found in the hills in the south, and leopards, panthers, hyenas, bears and wild hogs on most of the hills in the District. Sambar (*Cervus unicolor*), spotted deer (*Cervus axis*), ravine deer (*Gazella bennetti*), four-horned antelope (*Tetracerus quadricornis*) and barking deer (*Cervulus muntjak*) live in the jungles in the south, but their numbers are rapidly decreasing. The antelope (*Antelope cervicapra*) is still occasionally found. Wolves and wild dogs are comparatively rare. A few nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) still frequent the banks of the Son. Pea fowl, jungle fowl (*Gallus ferrugineus*), black partridge (*Francolinus vulgaris*) and grey (*Francolinus Pondicerianus*), and spur fowl (*Gallus sp.*) are found in and along the skirts of the southern hills.

Climate
and tem-
perature.

Owing to its distance from the sea, Gayā has greater extremes of climate than the south and east of Bengal. The mean temperature varies from 64° in January to 93° in May, and the highest average maximum is 105° in May. Owing to the hot and dry westerly winds which prevail in March and April, the humidity at that season averages only 51 per cent. With the approach of the monsoon the humidity increases, and then remains steady at from 84 to 87 per cent. throughout July and August. The average annual rainfall is 42 inches, of which 5·6 fall in June, 12·1 in July, 11·8 in August and 6·4 in September. The strength of the monsoon during the month of September is of special importance to the cultivator, as the winter rice harvest is largely dependent on a good supply of rain at that season.

Natural
calamities.

Local floods are occasionally caused by the rivers breaching their banks after abnormally heavy rain in the hills, or by a river leaving its bed and appropriating the channel of a *pain* or irrigation canal. A case of this nature occurred in 1896-97 when the Sakri river changed its course and flooded the lands of some *manzars* in the Nawāda sub-division, converting a considerable area

of fertile land into a sandy waste. In September 1901 in consequence of the sudden simultaneous rise of the Son and the Ganges, the former river topped its bank near Arwal and flooded Badrabad and other villages, many mud-built houses falling in.

The modern District was comprised, with the country now History. included in Patna and Shāhābād, within the ancient kingdom of MAGADHA. Both Patna and Gayā, which formed part of the Muhammadan *sūbah* of BĪHAR, passed into the hands of the English in 1765 being at first administered from Patna. This arrangement lasted till 1781 when Bihār was made into a District under a Collector and a Judge-Magistrate. In 1814 the south of the District was placed under the jurisdiction of a special Joint Magistrate, stationed at Sherghāti. In 1865 Gayā was separated from Patna and constituted an independent Collectorate.

Though Gayā was not the scene of fighting during the Mutiny of 1857, yet an incident took place in the District worthy of record. The sepoy in the cantonments at Dinapore mutinied in July and escaped into Shāhābād. After the first attack upon them by a British force had resulted in disaster, orders were issued by the Commissioner of Patna to all the civil officers within his jurisdiction to withdraw their establishments and retire on Dinapore. A small garrison of the 64th Regiment, together with a few Sikhs, was then stationed at Gayā town. In obedience to the written orders of the Commissioner the handful of soldiers and civilians at Gayā started on the road to Patna, leaving behind about 7 lakhs in the treasury. But on the way bold and counsels prevailed. Mr. Money, the Magistrate of the District, and Mr. Hollings, an uncovenanted official in the opium agency, determined to return to Gayā and save what they could from the general pillage that would inevitably follow upon the abandonment of the town. The detachment of the 64th Regiment was also sent back. The town was found still at peace. By the time that carriage had been collected for the treasury the Patna road had become unsafe, and the only means of retreat was by the Grand Trunk Road to Calcutta. As soon as the little party had started a second time, they were attacked by a mixed rabble of released prisoners and the former jail-guards. They repulsed the attack, and conveyed the treasure safely to Calcutta.

This District is full of places of the greatest archaeological interest, and the rocky hills teem with associations of the ancient religion of Buddha. As a place of Hindu pilgrimage, the town of GAYĀ is of comparatively modern interest, but at BUNDU (or Rodh) GAYĀ 6 miles to the south are remains of great religious and archaeological importance. Many Buddhist images are to be found in the neighbourhood and also at Punāwān, 14 miles east of Gayā. Two miles south of Punāwān is Haṣṛā hill, identified by Dr. Stein with the Kukkuṭapada-giri of Hiuen Tsiang and

Fa Hian. There are many scattered remains of undoubted Buddhist origin in the valley between the Sobhnāth hill and Hasrā hill proper; while in the neighbouring village of Bishnupur Tarwā are some finely cut Buddhist images. At Kurkihār, 7 miles to the north-east, is a large mound, from which many Buddhist sculptures have been unearthed. About 11 miles to the north-east lies the village of Jethian, identified with the Yashtivana of Hiuen Tsiang, in the neighbourhood of which there are several sites associated with the wanderings of Buddha. At Konah is a curious brick-built templo, and traces of Buddhist influence are observable in sculptures round about. Seven miles south-east of Gayā is the Dhongrā hill, which is clearly identifiable with the Prāgbodhi mountain of Hiuen Tsiang, and contains a cave in which Gautama is supposed to have rested before he went to Buddh-Gayā. At Gunerī are many Buddhist images and remains marking the site apparently of the *Sri Guna Charita* monastery. The above remains are all in the headquarters sub-division, in the extreme north of which lie the BARABAR HILLS with their famous rock-out caves. Not far from these hills to the west is the isolated rocky peak of Kowādol, at the base of which is a huge stone image of Buddha; it probably marks the site of the ancient Buddhist monastery of Silābhadra.

In the Nawāda sub-division at Sitāmarhi about 7 miles south-west of Hisuā is a cave hewn in a large isolated boulder of granite. Tradition relates that here Sita, the wife of Rāma, gave birth to Lava while in exile. Many legends also cluster round RAJAULI with its picturesque hills and pretty valleys. At ARSAR are several remains, including a fine statue of the *Varāha* or Bear incarnation of Vishnu.

In the Jahnābād sub-division about 3 miles north of the Barabar hills stands Dharāwat near the site of another Buddhist monastery called Gunāmati. South of this on the slope of a low ridge of hills many Buddhist remains have been found. At Dāpthu, there are some finely carved images and ruins of temples; and not far from here lying half buried in an open field is a large carved monolith of granite. At Jāru and Banwāria on the east side of the Phālgū river are the ruins of what must have been a large temple, and there are other remains of interest at Kāko, Ghonjan and Ner.

In the Aurangābād sub-division a fine stone temple stands at Dho and a similar one at Umgā. Large Buddhist images and many remains are found at Mānda, and at Bhurha 2 miles further east are some finely carved *chaityas* and images and also some remains marking the site of a monastery. Deokuli, Choon and Paohār also contain remains of Brāhmanical, Buddhist and Jain interest.

The recorded population of the present area rose from 1,947,824 in 1872 to 2,124,682 in 1881 and to 2,138,331 in 1891, but fell again to 2,059,933 in 1901. The population is not progressive, and much of the increase between 1872 and 1881 must have been due to better enumeration. The decrease at the census of 1901 was largely due to the ravages of the plague. The greatest loss took place in the central police circles where plague was most prevalent, but a slight decadence for which plague was not to blame occurred in the south-west, where the land is high and barren and the crops are scanty and uncertain. The Nawāda subdivision in the east and a small tract which benefits by irrigation from the Son in the north-west added to their population; both these tracts had escaped the ravages of the plague up to the time of the census. The salient statistics of the census of 1901 are reproduced below :—

SUB-DIVISION.	Area in square miles.	NUMBER OF		Population.	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Gaya	1,805	3	2,090	751,855	395	-0.7	26,638
Nawāda	935	2	1,752	453,863	476	+3.3	15,166
Aurangābād	1,216	2	2,043	407,075	375	-1.0	16,625
Jahānābād	600	1	1,078	350,635	638	-1.8	10,261
DISTRICT TOTAL ...	4,712	8	7,871	2,059,933	437	-3.7	74,703

Of the towns GAYA, the District head-quarters, TEKARI and DAUDNAGAR are municipalities. The other chief towns are AURANGABAD, NAWADA and JAHANABAD. The density of the population is greatest in the north, rising to 666 persons to the square mile in Jahānābād thāna; along the southern boundary, where a considerable area belongs geographically to the Chotā Nāgpur plateau, it is very sparse, and in Bārāchati thāna there are only 257 persons to the square mile. Gaya sends out numerous emigrants to the adjoining Districts of Hazāribāgh and Palāmau, but the most marked feature connected with migration is the great number of natives of the District who earn a livelihood in distant parts. No less than 58,952 or 2.8 per cent. of the population were residing in Bengal proper at the time of the census of 1901, and of these 36,953 were enumerated in Calcutta. These emigrants are employed chiefly as *dārwāns*, peons and weavers in jute mills, and they remit a large portion of their earnings for the support of their families, whom they seldom take with them. It was estimated in 1893 that as much as Rs. 8,40,000 was thus annually remitted to the District. The vernacular of the District

is the Magahi dialect of Bihari; the Awadhi dialect of eastern Hindi is spoken by Muhammadans. Of the population 1,840,382 persons (89·3 per cent.) are Hindus and 219,124 (10·64 per cent.) Muhammadans.

Their
castes and
occupa-
tions.

The Goālas (306,000) are the most numerous Hindu caste, next to whom come Bābhāns (163,000) and Koiris (145,000). There are several aboriginal or semi-Hinduised tribes, the principal being Bhuiyās (112,000), Dosādhs (108,000), Musabars (55,000) and Rajwārs (53,000). The most common higher castes are Brāhmans (64,000), Rajputs (111,000) and Kayasths (39,000). The Brāhmans include a number of persons who, though not regular or orthodox Brāhmans, are allowed a kind of brevet rank; among these the most remarkable are the Gayāwāls (see GAYA town) and the Dhāmins. Many of the functional castes are well represented, such as Kahārs (110,000), Chamārs (81,000), Telis (58,000), Kurmis (41,000), Barhais (39,000), and Hajjāms and Pāsīs (38,000 each). Among Muhammadans Jolāhās (74,000) are the most numerous. Agriculture supports 65·1 per cent. of the population, industries 14·0 per cent., commerce 0·6 per cent. and the professions 1·9 per cent.

Christian
Missions.

Christians number (1901) 253 only, of whom 40 are natives; the missions at work are the London Baptist Missionary Society, the London Baptist Zanāna Missionary Society and the World's Faith Missionary Association.

General
agricul-
tural con-
ditions.

The northern portion of the District, extending southwards to about 10 miles beyond Gayā town and constituting about two-thirds of the whole area, is fairly level and is mostly under cultivation. Further south the rise towards the hills of Chotā Nāgpur is more rapid, the country is intersected with hills and ravines, the proportion of sand in the soil is much larger, and a large area is composed of hill and scrub-covered jungle, which extends for several miles below the hills. Cultivation in this tract is far more scanty, but in recent years large areas of waste have been reclaimed, and the process will probably be accelerated with the opening of new lines of railway and the general improvement of communications. Between the numerous rivers the land is higher; in the south these *doābs* can only be irrigated with difficulty, and *rabi* and *bhadoi* crops are most grown. Further north, where the surface is more level, most of them can be watered by channels from the rivers and from *dhars*, and paddy is largely grown. In the west near the Son a considerable area, which was formerly sandy and infertile, is irrigated from the Patna canal and its distributaries. In the northern tract the soil is generally alluvial, consisting chiefly of clay with a small proportion of sand. In the south, however, sand generally predominates. In some parts the soil is impregnated with carbonate of soda.

The salient agricultural statistics for 1903-04 are given below, areas being in square miles :—

Chief agricultural statistics and principal crops.

SUB-DIVISION.	Total.	Cultivated.	Culturable waste.	Irrigated.*
Gayā	1,804	1,049	92	...
Nawāda	955	498	37	...
Aurangābād	1,246	657	98	52
Jahānābād	606	508	20	33
TOTAL	4,712	2,712	247	85

* This column represents the area irrigated from Government canals. Statistics showing the area irrigated from private channels, tanks, wells, etc., are not available, but it is estimated that in the whole District the area irrigated from all sources is 75 per cent. of the total cultivated area.

The area twice cropped is estimated at 287 square miles. The most important staple is rice, grown on 1,382 square miles or about 51 per cent. of the cultivated area. Besides this, a great variety of staples is raised, and it is not unusual to find 4 crops, such as gram, wheat, sesamum and linseed, grown together in the same field; to this fact and to the protection afforded by the Son canals and the indigenous system of irrigation followed in the District may be ascribed the comparative immunity it enjoys from famine. Wheat covers about 249 square miles, and the other important cereals and pulses are gram, *marua*, maize, barley, *kharāri*, *masūr*, peas, *urd* and *mūng*. *Bājra* or *jowār* is cultivated to a large extent on high lands. Oilseeds cover 329 square miles, the chief crop being linseed, grown on 160 square miles. Gayā is one of the chief opium-producing Districts in Bengal, and 75 square miles are devoted to the cultivation of the poppy. Sugarcane is widely grown, as also are potatoes, yams and other vegetables, and *pān* or betel leaf.

In the ten years ending in 1901-02, 2.83 lakhs was advanced under the Land Improvement Loans Act and Rs. 67,000 under the Agriculturists' Loans Act; the loans are chiefly used for the improvement or extension of the means of irrigation.

The local cattle are small but sturdy. Extensive pasture lands exist in the thinly cultivated tracts in the south, but elsewhere the cattle are largely fed on chopped straw. Sheep are reared extensively by the Gareri caste, especially near the hills where grazing is plentiful, and their wool is used in the manufacture of carpets, rugs and blankets. Goats are common, and hogs are kept by Bhuiyās, Musahars, Dosādhs and Doms. A veterinary dispensary is maintained at Gayā by the District board. Numerous religious gatherings are held at various places in the District, especially in Gayā town, which is a place of pilgrimage

throughout the year; to some of these cattle and ponies are brought for sale, but no special fair is held for the sale of cattle.

Irrigation. Agricultural prosperity depends almost entirely on irrigation. It is supplied in the west by two branches of the Son Canals system. The Eastern Main Canal, which it was originally intended to pass across Gayá to Monghyr, runs eastward for 8 miles to the Pünpün river, and the Patna canal runs northwards for 43 miles before entering the Patna District. One-fifth of the District is thus irrigated, the area actually supplied with water from these canals and their distributaries in 1903-04 being 85 square miles. The remainder is cut into parallel strips by a number of rivers which flow from south to north. Between each pair of rivers is necessarily a watershed, and in the slope leading from it to the river reservoirs are constructed. These are filled either by the rain-water which comes down the slope, this system being known as *genrábandi*, or from a water channel (*pain*) which passes along the side, and takes off from the river at a higher level. As the rivers fall only six feet in the mile, the channels are sometimes carried to a considerable distance, and Dr. Grierson writes of having seen one twenty miles long. Whenever a flood comes down, during the rainy season, it fills all the reservoirs (*áhars*) attached to each channel. Well irrigation is largely resorted to in the neighbourhood of villages, where less expensive methods are not practicable. Though no accurate statistics are available, it is believed that about 156 square miles are irrigated by these means.

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Minerals,

The principal mineral product is mica which is found at Sapahi, Singar, Basron, Ohatkari and Belam in the Nawáda sub-division, and in smaller quantities among the hills in the south on the border of Hazáribágh. The seams are reached by blasting, and the sheets of mica are then dug out, separated, clipped and sorted and packed according to size, and despatched to Calcutta for export to America and Europe. In 1903 the only mines worked regularly were those at Sapahi, Basron, Singar and Belam. The average daily number of labourers employed in that year was 464; they are drawn from the ordinary labouring classes, and are paid a wage varying from 2 to 6 annas, according to age, sex and skill. The output, which varies according to the demand in the market, amounted in 1903 to 122 tons. Iron ore is found in considerable quantities at Pachambá in the Nawáda sub-division and Lodhwe in the head-quarters sub-division, but is not now worked. It also exists in the Barábar hills, where there were formerly smelting works under European management; it is now being worked again to a small extent. Granite, syenite and laterite are quarried in many of the hills for building purposes and road metalling. The so-called Gayá black stone, of which ornaments, bowls and figures are carved, is quarried

at Pothalkati in the Atri thāna and worked chiefly by stone-carvers, who claim to be of Brāhman descent and to have come from Jaipur. Pottery clay exists in many places and nodules of limestone are found in scattered localities. Saltpetre is manufactured, chiefly in the Jahānābād sub-division, from efflorescences on the clay of village sites.

The manufactures include lao, sugar, *tasar* and cotton cloth, brass utensils, stone ware, gold and silver ornaments, blankets, rugs and carpets. Paper was formerly made on a large scale at Arwal, but the industry has entirely died out. Silk cloth is woven to a considerable extent at Mānpur near Gayā, and in a smaller degree at Kādirganj in the Nawāda sub-division and Daudnagar. Carpets and rugs are manufactured at Obrā and Daudnagar. Brass utensils are also made in large quantities at the latter town. Carving in wood was formerly an important industry, and the carvers had attained much proficiency, as is evident from some examples still existing in the balconies, doors and windows of old Gayā, but the art has almost died out. Cane chairs are made in Gayā, but not to any great extent. Small statues of animals and figures of gods are carved by a few artists in Gayā from black stone. Sugar refining is on the wane, but raw sugar is largely manufactured for export. The lac insect is cultivated, generally on the *pālas* tree (*Butea frondosa*) in the southern jungles; and the manufactured product, which is prepared in about forty factories, is exported chiefly to Calcutta. The average outturn in a year is estimated at 50,000 maunds.

The principal exports are food grains, especially rice, oil-seeds, pepper, crude opium, raw sugar, *mahua* fruit, saltpetre, mica, lac, blankets, carpets, stone and brass utensils, hides, prepared tobacco and *pān* leaves. Among the imports are salt, coal, coke, piece-goods and shawls, kerosene oil, tea, cotton, timber, tobacco (unmanufactured dry leaves), iron, spices of all kinds, dried and fresh fruits, refined sugar, paper and various articles of European manufacture. The bulk of the trade is with Calcutta, but unrefined sugar finds its way in large quantities to the Central Provinces, Rājputāna, Central India and Berār. The chief centres of trade are Gayā, Tekāri, Gurua, Rāniganj and Imānganj in the head-quarters sub-division, Rajauli and Akbarpur in Nawāda, Jahānābād and Arwal in Jahānābād, and Daudnagar, Deo, Mahārājganj, Tarwā, Khiriāwān, Rafiganj and Jainhor in the Aurangābād sub-division. Owing to the opening of new railways, which now tap most of the trade routes in the District, several other places are rising in importance, the most noticeable being Nawāda. Feeder roads have been constructed by the District board and trade tends more and more to converge upon the railway stations. For the conveyance

Their castes and occupa- tions.	Railways and roads.	<p>of produce, bullock carts are used, but pack bullocks also are still very largely employed, especially in the hilly parts. The principal classes engaged in trade are the various Baniyā castes and Mārwaris; some Mughals deal in sugar, cloths and shawls.</p> <p>The Patna-Gayā branch connects Gayā with the main line of the East Indian Railway at Bankipore, 34½ miles of it lying within the District. Three other lines have recently been opened, viz., the South Bihār branch which runs east from Gayā to Luckeesarai through the Nawāda sub-division, 58 miles of the line falling within the District; the Mughal Sarai-Gayā branch from Gayā through the Aurangābād sub-division to Mughal Sarai, 51 miles of the line lying within Gayā; and the Barun-Daltonganj branch which leaves the latter line at Barun on the Son and runs a distance of 23½ miles before it enters the Palāmau District. A fifth line from Gayā to Katrasgarh, of which 34 miles fall within Gayā District, has recently been completed, and with the Mughal Sarai-Gayā line, forms the Grand Chord line to Calcutta.</p>
Christian Missions.		<p>The District is intersected by numerous excellent roads, of which 202 miles are metalled and 719 miles unmetalled, in addition to 628 miles of village tracks. The chief lines are:—The Grand Trunk Road with a length of 51 miles maintained from Provincial funds; the Kharhat-Rajauli road running from Bihār to Nawāda and southwards; the Gayā-Salimpur road which is a portion of the Patna-Gayā road running parallel to the Patna-Gayā Railway, and the Gayā-Nawāda road with several feeder roads leading from it to the stations on the South Bihār Railway.</p>
General agricul- tural con- ditions.		<p>A small steamer plies weekly on the Patna canal, but it carries very little merchandise. None of the small rivers is navigable. Most of them, where not bridged, are provided with ferries in the rainy season, but the only large ferry is that across the Son from Daudnagar to Nāsriganj in the Shāhabād District.</p>
	Famine.	<p>Owing to the construction of the Son canals, the indigenous system of irrigation which prevails, and the improvement in communications which has taken place since 1874, the District is not seriously affected by famines. The whole of the western border is protected by the Son canals and almost all the remainder of the District by the local system of reservoirs and channels described above. A great variety of crops are grown, and it rarely happens that famine obtains a grip of any considerable area. The famine of 1866 affected 1,300 square miles, but the bulk of the people were able to support themselves, and the relief operations were on a comparatively small scale, costing only Rs. 22,000, of which Rs. 12,000 was raised by local subscription. In 1874 also the District was not seriously involved; the food supply was augmented by private trade, and the Government had</p>

only to supplement it by a small amount of grain, and by the provision of relief works on the canals. The total expenditure on this occasion was 1·38 lakhs. Slight scarcities occurred in 1888-89 and 1891-92, while in 1896-97, when severe famine was felt over a large part of India, prices rose very high, and the landless labourers suffered much in consequence. No regular works were opened, but 50,000 persons were gratuitously relieved, most of them being travellers passing through the District in search of labour. The total expenditure was only about Rs. 18,000, all of which was subscribed locally.

For general administrative purposes the District is divided into 4 sub-divisions with head-quarters at Sahibganj (GAYA town), NAWADA, JAHANABAD and AURANGABAD. The District head-quarters staff subordinate to the Magistrate-Collector consists of 3 or 4 Deputy Magistrate-Collectors, besides 2 special Deputy Collectors for exoise and partition work. A Joint Magistrate is usually deputed to Gaya for the cold weather months, and one or two sub-deputy collectors and an Assistant Magistrate-Collector are also occasionally posted to the District. The Nawada, Jahanabad and Aurangabad sub-divisions are in charge of Deputy Magistrate-Collectors, and sometimes in the case of the 2 sub-divisions first named, of Assistant Magistrates.

The civil courts are those of the District and Sessions Judge, 2 Sub-Judges and 4 Munsifs, one of whom sits at Aurangabad. The criminal courts include those of the District and Sessions Judge, the District Magistrate, and the above mentioned Joint, Assistant and Deputy Magistrates. A special magistrate is authorised under section 14 of the Criminal Procedure Code to try cases connected with breaches of the Irrigation laws. The district was formerly notorious for the prevalence of crime, especially in the south, which was in a lawless state, dacoities and highway robberies being very frequent. Now, though dacoities are occasionally committed, the commonest offences are burglary, cattle-stealing and riots caused by disputes about irrigation.

Owing to changes in the jurisdiction of the District and the destruction of records at the time of the Mutiny, early statistics of the land revenue are not available. The current demand has risen from 13·8 lakhs in 1870-71 to 14·39 lakhs in 1903-04. Sub-division of estates has gone on rapidly, there being in the latter year 7,876 estates, of which 7,828 with a demand of 13·40 lakhs were permanently settled, 15 with a demand of Rs. 47,000 temporarily settled, and the remainder were held direct by Government. Among special tenures may be mentioned *altamgha* grants or lands given in perpetuity as a reward for conspicuous military service, *ghatwāli* lands assigned for the maintenance of guards and patrols on roads and passes, and

madat-māsh lands granted to favourites and others: About 70 per cent. of the cultivated land is held under the system of *bhaoli* or produce rents. There are two kinds, *dānābandi* where the crop is appraised while standing in the field, and *batāi* or *agorbatāi* where the crop is taken to the threshing floor and divided equally between the landlord and tenant after the labourers engaged in cutting and carrying it have been given their share. Under the *dānābandi* system also the crop is supposed to be divided equally, but in practice the landlord's share is generally $\frac{2}{10}$ ths and often even more. In the case of cash rents three kinds of tenure obtain, viz., the ordinary *nagdi*, *shikmi* and *chakath*. A *shikmi* tenure in this District means a tenure held on a cash rent fixed for ever. A *chakath* holding is one in which the rent is fixed for a term of years; the term is also often applied to settlements made for the reclamation of culturable waste. Another local tenure is the *paran* or *paranpheri*, under which paddy land held on the *bhaoli* system and suited to the growth of sugar-cane or poppy is settled at a specially high rate of rent in the years when these crops are grown. The following rates of rent per acre may be regarded as fairly general; rice lands, if fit for only a single crop, R. 1-8-0 to Rs. 8, and those yielding a double crop Rs. 3 to Rs. 10; lands, on which wheat, barley, gram, pulses and oilseeds are grown, Rs. 2 to Rs. 8; sugar-cane and poppy lands Rs. 3 to Rs. 16; lands growing *bhādoi* crops such as maize, *maruā* or *jowār* R. 1-8-0 to Rs. 5; and lands growing potatoes Rs. 4 to Rs. 16. The Government estates in the District and part of the Tekāri estate with a total area of 582 square miles were cadastrally surveyed and settled between 1893 and 1898. The incidence of land revenue was found to be R. 0-10-5 per acre and the rent Rs. 4-0-10, the land revenue demand thus amounting to only 16 per cent. of the rent. The maximum and minimum assessments per acre are about Rs. 16 and 8 annas respectively, and the average assessment Rs. 5-12-0. The average holding of a ryot is about 6 acres. Recently the Deo and Maksudpur estates, with an area of 92 and 132 square miles respectively, have also come under survey and settlement.

The following table shows the collections of land revenue and of total revenue, under the principal heads, in thousands of rupees:—

	1880-81.	1890-91.	1900-01.	1903-01.
Land revenue ...	14,35	14,67	14,69	14,84
Total revenue ...	24,91	24,82	28,52	30,03

Outside the municipalities of GAYA, TEKARI and DAUDNAGAR Local and local affairs are managed by the District board with subordinate municipal local boards in each sub-division except the head-quarters sub-division. In 1903-04 its income was Rs 3,26,000, of which Rs. 2,26,000 was derived from rates, and the expenditure was Rs. 3,07,000, including Rs. 2,04,000 spent on civil works and Rs. 45,000 on education.

In 1903 the District contained 14 police stations and 22 out- Police and posts, and the force subordinate to the District Superintendent of jails. Police consisted of 5 inspectors, 49 sub-inspectors, 56 head constables and 659 constables. The rural police consisted of 389 *daffadars* and 3,648 *chaukidars*. The District jail at Gaya has accommodation for 542 prisoners, and subsidiary jails at Nawāda, Jahānābād and Aurangābād for 105.

The District is backward in point of education, and only Education. 3·6 per cent. of the population (7·2 males and 0·2 females) could read and write in 1901. The number of pupils in the schools increased from 19,118 in 1880-81 to 26,250 in 1892-93 and to 26,849 in 1900-01, while 37,824 boys and 2,303 girls were at school in 1903-04, being respectively 24·9 and 1·4 per cent. of the children of school-going age. The number of educational institutions, public and private, in that year was 1,698, including 19 secondary schools, 979 primary schools and 600 other special schools. The expenditure on education was Rs. 1,49,000, of which Rs. 14,000 was met from Provincial funds, Rs. 45,000 from District funds, Rs. 3,000 from municipal funds and Rs. 51,000 from fees. The chief institutions are the Government school and 2 private schools at Gayā, and a school maintained by the Tekāri Rāj at Tekāri, all teaching English up to the Entrance standard.

In 1903 the District contained 15 dispensaries, of which 10 Medical. had accommodation for 182 in-door patients; the cases of 90,000 out-patients and 2,300 in-patients were treated, and 7,000 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 67,000, of which Rs. 3,000 was met by Government contributions, Rs. 22,000 from local and Rs. 7,000 from municipal funds and Rs. 25,000 from subscriptions. The chief institutions are the pilgrim and *zanāna* hospitals at Gayā.

Vaccination is compulsory only in municipal areas, but the Vaccination practice is steadily gaining ground and the people as a whole are beginning to realise its efficacy. During 1903-04 the number of persons successfully vaccinated was 58,000, or 29·5 per thousand.

[M. Martin (Buchanan-Hamilton), *Eastern India* vol. i, 1888; G. A. Grierson, *Notes on the District of Gayā*, Calcutta, 1893 L. S. S. O'Malley, *District Gazetteer*, Calcutta, 1906.]

Gayā Sub-division.—Head-quarters sub-division of Gaya District, Bengal, lying between 24° 17' and 25° 5' N., and 84° 17'

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and $85^{\circ} 24'$ E., with an area of 1,905 square miles. Its population was 751,855 in 1901, compared with 832,442 in 1891. A plague epidemic was raging at the time of the census of 1901, which not only caused many deaths and a considerable exodus, but also made the work of enumeration exceptionally difficult. The sub-division comprises two tracts, that to the north being a level plain dotted with isolated hills and containing some long hill ranges, that to the south an undulating country containing several hills forming the northern fringe of the Chotā Nāgpur plateau. The density of population for the whole sub-division is only 395 persons to the square mile, and the population along the south is very sparse. It contains 3 towns, GAYA (population 71,284) its head-quarters, TEKARI (6,437) the head-quarters of the Tekari family (see article TEKARI KAJ), and SHENGHATI (2,641), and 2,999 villages. GAYA town, which possesses a very ancient history, is an important place of pilgrimage, and at BUDDH GAYA are remains of unusual religious and archaeological importance. The sub-division contains numerous other remains of great interest, which have been referred to in the articles GAYA District and BARAN hills.

Nawāda Sub-division.—Eastern sub-division of the GAYA District, Bengal, lying between $24^{\circ} 31'$ and $25^{\circ} 7'$ N. and $85^{\circ} 17'$ and $86^{\circ} 3'$ E., with an area of 955 square miles. Its population was 453,868 in 1901, compared with 439,565 in 1891. The north of the sub-division is an alluvial plain, while the south is hilly and covered with jungle. The latter tract which includes a portion of the northern fringe of the Chotā Nāgpur plateau, is very sparsely populated; the density for the whole sub-division is 475 persons to the square mile. It contains 2 towns, NAWADA (population 5,908) its head-quarters, and HISAUA (6,704; and 1,762 villages. At AFSAR are some important archaeological remains, including a very fine statue of the *Varāha*, or boar incarnation of Vishnu, and the ruins of a temple.

Aurangābād Sub-division.—Western sub-division of the GAYA District, Bengal, lying between $24^{\circ} 29'$ and $25^{\circ} 7'$ N., and $84^{\circ} 0'$ and $84^{\circ} 44'$ E., with an area of 1,246 square miles. The north of the sub-division is a level alluvial tract, but the south is more undulating and contains numerous hills, the outliers of the Chotā Nāgpur plateau. Its population was 467,875 in 1901, compared with 472,507 in 1891. The density is 375 persons to the square mile, being greatest in the north-west where the soil is irrigated by the Son Canals system. It contains 2 towns, AURANGABAD (population 4,685) its head-quarters, and DAUD-NAGAR (9,744), and 2,042 villages. DAO, the seat of the Deo family, contains a fine stone-built temple; some other interesting antiquities are referred to in the article GAYA District.

Jahānābād Sub-division.—Northern sub-division of the GAYA District, Bengal, lying between $24^{\circ} 59'$ and $26^{\circ} 19'$ N. and 84°

27° and 85° 13' E. with an area of 606 square miles. The population was 386,535 in 1901, compared with 393,817 in 1891; and with 638 persons to the square mile, it is more densely populated than the rest of the District. The country is alluvial, well-cultivated and intersected by several rivers; and the surface is generally level. It contains one town, JAHANABAD (population 7,018), its head-quarters, and 1,078 villages. It possesses several remains of archaeological interest which are referred to in the article GAYA District.

Tekāri Rāj.—Estate in Gaya District, Bengal. The Tokāri Rāj was founded by a small landed proprietor, named Dhir Singh, at the beginning of the 18th century. His son, Sundar Singh, a Bābhan, took advantage of the confusion created by the invasion of Nādir Shāh in 1739 to lay hands on all property within his reach that he was strong enough to keep. The title of Rājā was conferred on him by Muhammad Shāh, emperor of Delhi, as a reward for the assistance he rendered to Alt Vardi Khān, *Subāh-dār* of Bengal and Bihār, in resisting an invasion of the Marāṭhās. His adopted son Buniād succeeded him, but was treacherously drowned by Kāsim Ali in 1762 in revenge for his allegiance to the British. At the time Buniād's son, Mitrājīt, who was only a few months old, was with difficulty saved from Kāsim Ali's omisseries. After Kāsim Ali's defeat at the battle of Buxar, Mitrājīt was made over by Dalil Singh, his father's *amin*, in whose charge the boy had been placed, to the British commanding officer. He was subsequently restored to his estates and became a staunch friend to the British, assisted in quelling the Kolhān rebellion, and was honoured with the title of Mahārājā. He died in 1840 and the Rāj was divided between his two sons, the elder, Hit Nārāyan, getting a 9 annas share, and the younger, Mod Nārāyan, 7 annas.

Five years later Hit Nārāyan was made a Mahārājā; but being a man of religious turn of mind, he became an ascetic and left his vast property in the hands of his wife, Mahārāni Indrājīt Kunwar, who with her husband's consent adopted Mahārājā Rām Nārāyan Krishna Singh as her son, and on her death left the property to his widow Mahārāni Rājrup Kunwar. The latter appointed as her successor her daughter, Radheswari Kunwar, who died in 1886, leaving a minor son, Mahārāj Kumār Gopāl Saran Nārāyan Singh. The 9 annas share of the Tokāri estate was brought under the management of the Court of Wards on his behalf, and remained under its charge till 1904. During this period, much has been done for the development of the resources of the property. As many as 18 irrigation systems have been taken in hand, and have resulted in an increase to the rent-roll of over half a lakh of rupees. The two most important of these are the Jaru canal and Jamu-pani in Chākand mahal. The former

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added Rs. 20,000 to the rent-roll, while the expenditure incurred was Rs. 5,000 only; and by the improvement of the latter, at a trifling expenditure, the income of the *mahāl* was increased by Rs. 10,000 per annum. This portion of the estate was brought under settlement between the years 1893 and 1898, when it was found to contain 551 villages with a total area of 309 square miles. More than two-thirds of it is under cultivation and nearly half of the cultivated area is irrigated; the chief crop is winter rice. Closely connected with the fact that irrigation is required over large tracts and that the necessary works can only be constructed and maintained at the landlord's expense, is the prevalence of the *bhaoli* system of produce rents (see GAYA District), which alone can furnish the necessary incentive to the landlord. About 70 per cent. of the cultivated lands are held on this system; in the rest of the estate the average cash rent per acre is Rs. 4-9 for ryots holding at fixed rates, Rs. 4-6 for occupancy ryots and Rs. 2-8 for non-occupancy ryots, the average size of the holdings of the three classes of tenants being 4.1 acres, 3.1 acres and 1.3 acres respectively. The current demand for land revenue and cesses in 1903-04 was 2 lakhs and Rs. 60,000 respectively. The rent roll is about 7.34 lakhs, but it fluctuates greatly from year to year owing to so much of the amount being payable in kind.

The 7 annas share of the estate which, as already stated, was held by Mod Narayan Singh, passed on his death to his 2 widows, who transferred the property in 1870 to a nephew of their late husband, Bābū Rām Bahādur Singh. The latter received the title of Rājā in 1888, but died before being invested with the *khilat* and was succeeded by a grand-daughter. On her death six years later, the estate devolved on her daughter, Rāj Kumāri Bhūbanesvar Kunwar, who is still (1905) in possession of it, though, being a minor, she is under the guardianship of her grandmother. The 7 annas share contains 715 villages and comprises an area of 523 square miles; the rental is about 6 lakhs.

[*History of the Tekāri Raj*, Calcutta, 1880; C. J. Stevenson-Moore, *Final report on the Survey and Settlement operations in the Tekāri wards estate*, Calcutta, 1899.]

Afsar (*Aphsaur*, also called *Jafarpur*).—Village in the Nawāda sub-division of the Gayā District, Bengal, situated in 26° 4' N. and 85° 40' E. Population (1901) 1,022. A statue found here of the *Varāha* or boar incarnation of Vishnu, apparently of the Gupta period, is of exquisite workmanship and is one of the finest in India. A valuable inscription giving a long genealogy of the later Guptas, now lost, was also discovered at this place, but the most interesting object is the buried temple, the ruins forming a mound sharply conical and nearly 60 feet high. This is one of the earliest Gupta temples, and besides its

age, the disposition of its parts, its terraces on terraces, its quaint pillars, pilasters and niches, and the charming variety in its ornamentation, render it by far the most interesting and unique temple in Bihār. Archaeologically, it is of great interest as a Hindu relic of a period of which Brāhmanical remains are few. Architecturally, it is second in importance only to the Buddh Gayā temple. [J.F. Fleet, *Inscriptions of the Early Gupta kings and their successors*, Calcutta, 1888.]

Anrangābād Town.—Head-quarters town of the sub-division of the same name in the Gayā District, Bengal, situated in $24^{\circ} 45' N.$ and $84^{\circ} 28' E.$ on the Grand Trunk Road. Population (1901) 4,685. The town contains the usual public offices; the sub-jail has accommodation for 15 prisoners. The trade consists chiefly of food grains, oilseeds, leather and piece-goods.

Barābar Hills.—Hills on the northern boundary of the head-quarters sub-division of the Gayā District, Bengal, lying between $25^{\circ} 0'$ and $25^{\circ} 3' N.$, and $85^{\circ} 1'$ and $85^{\circ} 5' E.$, 6 to 8 miles east of the Belā railway station on the Patna-Gayā branch of the East Indian Railway. The range contains many remarkable antiquarian remains. On the highest peak (Barābar) is an ancient temple sacred to Sidheswara, containing a *lingam* said to have been placed there by Bān Rāja, the Asur king of Kāmarūpa, whose bloody wars with Krishna still live in the remembrance of the people. A large fair attended on an average by 15,000 persons, chiefly men, is held here in the month of Bhādra (September). The pilgrims begin to arrive at daybreak, and spend the day on the hill; the night is devoted to the worship of the image, and in the morning the crowd begins to disperse. To the south and near the base of this hill, the path up which is freely adorned with images of all kinds, lies a small recess enclosed on two sides by the mountain, on the third by an artificial barrier of stone, and on the fourth by a long low ridge of granite. Here in the solid rock have been cut the remarkable caves from which, it has been held, the glen derives its name of Sātghar (seven houses). The four caves found in this part of the mountain average 32 feet by 14 feet; three of them are chiselled to a wonderful polish, but the fourth was never finished. Inscriptions show that the oldest was cut in 252 B. C., and the others within the next 36 years; these are on another spur of the hill called Nagarjoni. Not far off is the sacred spring of Patalganga, and at the base of the rugged peak of Kowādol (crow's rocking stone) is an enormous figure of Buddha. The Kowādol peak is identified as the site of an ancient Buddhist monastery of Silābhadrā visited by Hiuen Tsiang. Many other figures and sculptures are found among these hills, which have been fully described by Buchanan-Hamilton and General Cunningham. In the Bengal Atlas of Major Rennell, this cluster is called the Currum-shaw hills; this name is a corruption.

of *Karna-champar* or "Karna's seat," the name of an ancient ruin on the hill.

Buddh Gayā (*Bodh Gayā*)—Village in the head-quarters sub-division of the Gayā District, Bengal, situated in 24° 42' N. and 85° 0' E. about 7 miles south of Gayā town, on the west bank of the Phalgu or Lilājān river. Population (1901) 502. The name signifies either the Gayā of Buddha or the Gayā of the *bodhi* (enlightenment). The place is sometimes however called *Mahābodhi*, or the great enlightenment, a name which is also given to the *bodhi*-tree or sacred *pipal* tree at Budh Gayā.

It was under this tree that Sākyamuni, after many years of search after truth, conquered Māra and attained to Buddhahood, i.e., became freed from the circle of rebirths; and worship consequently centred around the *bodhi* tree from the earliest period of Buddhism. King Asoka (3rd century B. C.) is said to have erected a temple near this holy tree, and one of the bas-reliefs of the Bharhut *stūpa* (2nd century B. C.) gives a representation of the tree and its surroundings, as they then were. It shows a *pipal* tree, with a *vedi* or stone platform in front, adorned with umbrellas and garlands, and surrounded by some building with arched windows resting on pillars; while close to it stood a single pillar with a Persepolitan capital crowned with the figure of an elephant. When the stone pavement of the present temple was dug up during its restoration, foundations of an older building were discovered beneath it, which, in the opinion of General Cunningham, represent the remains of the original temple built by Asoka. The ancient stone railing which now surrounds the temple, certainly belongs for the greater part to about the same time as Asoka's reign: and this railing and the bases of some columns which mark the place where Buddha used to take exercise, form the only remains now extant of so early a period. The railing is adorned with various carvings, among which the larger reliefs generally represent events in Buddha's life or his former births. On one of these pillars, which has been removed from the temple precincts to the *math* of the Mahant of Buddh Gayā, there is a figure of the Sun-god standing on his chariot drawn by four horses. The holy tree stands west of the temple; the present one is certainly not of very great age, but it is evidently an offshoot of an older tree; and General Cunningham even found portions of the trunk and roots of a *pipal* tree very deep down below the surface. Under its shadow is the ancient *Vajrasana* or adamant throne of Buddha, which may belong to about the same time as the railing, though it contains a mutilated inscription of some later date. Its outer faces are carved with Brahmini geese, alternating with the usual honey-suckle ornament, and its upper surface has a geometrical pattern

erred upon it. Except for these earlier remains, all the Buddhist sculptures, which have been found in great numbers around the temple, belong to the latest phase of Buddhism in India (800 to 1200 A. D.) and afford a striking illustration of what that religion had become before its final overthrow by the Muhammadans. The present temple was restored in 1891 by the Bengal Government, and in its main features represents the structure as it must have existed as early as 635 A. D., when the Chinese pilgrim, Hsuen Tsiang, saw it. It consists of a main tower rising to the height of 180 feet in the form of a slender pyramid, which springs from a square platform on the four corners of which are similar towers of smaller size. The outside walls have niches for the reception of statues, and access to the temple is obtained through an eastern gate supported by pillars, which opens on to an anteroom in front of the sanctum. At the western wall of the sanctum is a *ce ti* or altar upon which is placed the principal image, a large medimval statue representing Buddha seated under the Bodhi tree with various other images on each side. The main figure has been gilded over and the Hindu custodians of the shrine have marked its forehead with the sectarian mark of the Vaishnavas, in order to represent it as the Buddha incarnation of Vishnu. The worship of this image by Hindus is comparatively recent, and apparently does not date further back than the restoration of the temple in 1891.

The ground floor is about 20 feet below the modern surface level. Scarcely more than one quarter of the old site has been excavated; but, as far as can be judged from the present state of the ruins, the entire area of the main enclosure of the temple has been laid open. It was filled with an enormous amount of smaller shrines, *chaitya*s, votive *stupa*s and the like, the foundations of which are still extant. South of the temple is an old tank, called *Buddhpokhar*; and north-west, at a place now called Amar Singh's fort, remains of the ancient monastery of Buddh Gaya have been discovered. Very little of these remains can, however, be seen at present, and here as in other places further excavation on a systematic scale may yield valuable results.

Apart from the temple and its surroundings, the remains near Buddh Gaya are scanty. There are none to be found at the spot where, according to tradition, Buddha was sheltered by the serpent-king Muchilinda and where Hsuen Tsiang saw a statue representing the scene; but, at Bakraur, where some of the pillars of the Buddh Gaya railing have been placed inside a small Hindu *math*, are the remains of a *stupa* which marked the site where Buddha once appeared in the shape of an elephant. The so-called *Praybodhi* cave, where Buddha spent some time before he went down to Uravilā, the present Buddh Gaya, is situated on the western slope of the Mora Hills midway between

Buddh Gayā and Gayā town; and the brick foundations of ancient *stupas* may be observed on the hills from the cave.

Buddh Gayā is now a place of Hindu as well as of Buddhist worship; and the Hindu pilgrims who offer *pindas* to their ancestors at the holy shrines of Gayā, visit it on the fourth day of their pilgrimage and perform the usual propitiatory ceremonies, the principal *vedi* being another *pipal* tree north of the temple. It cannot now be determined to what age this adoption by the Hindus of a Buddhist site goes back, but it is certainly several centuries old; and it is not improbable that Hindu worship at the place began before the final overthrow of Buddhism, during the syncretistic period which preceded that event.

[L. S. S. O'Malley, *District Gazetteer of Gaya*, Calcutta, 1906; Cunningham, *Mahābodhi*, 1892; Dr. Rājendralāla Mitra, *Buddha Gayā*, Calcutta, 1878.]

Daudnagar.—Town in the Aurangābād sub-division of the Gayā District, Bengal, situated in 25° 3' N. and 84° 24' E. on the right bank of the river Son and the left bank of the Patna canal. Population (1901) 9,744. It is said to have been founded by Daud Khān, a Risāldār of Aurangzeb, and its chief building is a *sarai* or rest-house built by him. It is surrounded by a moat, and formerly had gates which used to be regularly shut every night. Its trade was once very considerable, and *tasar* cloth was manufactured in large quantities. Its prosperity is on the wane, water communication having brought the area it used to tap into close proximity to the two main centres Patna and Gayā, but it has still some trade in *tasar* cloth, brass utensils, blankets, carpets, sesamum, linseed and molasses. It has also a sugar refinery. It contains the offices of the Assistant Engineer and the Circle Officer of the Irrigation department. Daudnagar was constituted a municipality in 1885. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 4,400 and the expenditure Rs. 4,200. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 4,600, mainly from a tax on persons (or property tax), and the expenditure was Rs. 4,500.

Deo.—Village in the Aurangābād sub-division of the Gayā District, Bengal, situated in 24° 39' N. and 84° 26' E. It is the seat of the Deo Rājās, one of the most ancient families of Bihār, who trace their descent from the Rānas of Udaipur. In the struggle between Warren Hastings and the Rājā of Benares, the Deo Rājā, although too old to take the field in person, sent his forces to the aid of the British. His successor mustered a loyal contingent against the mutineers at Surgujā, and his grandson rendered good service in quelling the Kol insurrection. The Rājā stood boldly forward for the British during the Mutiny of 1857. The present Rājā is a minor, and his

According to the Bhagavat Purāna, Gayā was the name of a king who dwelt in the town in the *Treta-Yuga*. The more generally accepted legend, however, is that contained in the Vāyu Purāna, according to which Gayā was the name of an *Asur*, or demon, of giant size, who by long and austere penance and devotion obtained the quality of holiness to such an extent that all who saw or touched him were admitted to heaven. Yama, the lord of hell, grew jealous and, pleading that his post was becoming a sinecure, appealed to the Gods, who after conferring in council, visited Gayā and persuaded the demon to grant his pure and holy body as a place of sacrifice. To this Gayā assented and lay down with his head resting where the old city of Gayā now is. Yama then placed a sacred rock (*dharmaśila*) on his head, but this was not sufficient to keep him quiet until Vishnu promised the rock should be the holiest spot on earth, that the *devas* should rest there, that the locality should be known as Gayā-*kshetra*, and that whoever offered funeral cakes and performed the funeral ceremonies there should be translated with their ancestors to the heaven of Brahmā. This legend, purporting to explain the reason for the peculiar sanctity of a spot which is an object of pilgrimage to every member of the Hindu religion, contains, in the opinion of the late Dr. (Rājā) Rājendralala Mitra, an allegory of the final victory of Brāhmanism over Buddhism, which had flourished so strongly in and around Gayā for so many centuries. The pilgrimage to Gayā is undertaken by thousands of Hindus from every part of India. There are 45 places at which the pilgrims should offer *pind*s or funeral cakes in the Gayā-*kshetra*, an area extending from 5 miles north-west of Gayā to 7 miles south. The whole 45 are rarely visited now, the majority of pilgrims contenting themselves with seven and often with three only. The Vishnupada, a temple built over the foot-print of Vishnu on the solid rock that crops up on the west bank of the Phalgu river, and round which the old town of Gayā proper was built, may be regarded as the centre of this pilgrimage, and is the largest and most important temple in Gayā. It faces east, the facade being very striking. It is an ugly octagonal building about 100 feet high, with many very clumsy mouldings. The threshold is guarded by high folding doors plated with silver. In the centre is an octagonal basin plated with silver, which surrounds the impress on the rock of the god's foot about 16 inches in length. Pilgrims to the temple stand round the basin and throw in their offerings of rice and water. To the south of the temple, almost touching it, is a handsome pillared hall or porch, where the bare rock shows itself; in fact the pillars are let into the solid rock for a foundation. This temple is said to have been erected in the 18th century by Ahalyā Bai, the wife of Holkar of Indore, on the site of a more ancient

temple. The Gayāwāls are the hereditary officiating priests, possessing the exclusive privilege to grant to the pilgrims the blessing without which their visit would be ineffectual, and they take advantage of their position to obtain from the pilgrims such gifts as they are able to afford. The poorest pilgrim can rarely get through the functions required of him under five rupees, while certain princes are reputed to have spent more than a lakh. [M. Martin (Buchanan-Hamilton), *Eastern India*, vol. i, 1838; L. S. S. O'Malley, *District Gazetteer of Gaya*, Calcutta, 1906.]

Hisuā.—Town in the Nawāda sub-division of the Gayā District, Bengal, situated in 24° 50' N. and 85° 25' E. on the right bank of the river Tilayā on the Gayā and Nawāda road, 9 miles from Nawāda and 27 miles from Gayā town. Population (1901) 6,704. Hisuā is a station (Tilayā) on the South Bihār Railway. The town is noted for its pottery.

Jahānābād Town.—Head-quarters town of the sub-division of the same name in the Gayā District, Bengal, situated in 25° 13' N. and 85° 0' E., at the confluence of the Morhar (or Dardhā) and Jamunā rivers, on the Patna-Gayā road and on the Patna-Gayā branch of the East Indian Railway. Population (1901) 7,018. It was once famous for its weaving industry, and in 1760 it formed one of the eight minor branches connected with the central cloth factory of the East India Company at Patna. In the early years of the last century the town contained about 700 houses, a cloth factory and a native agency for the manufacture of saltpetre. The manufacture of cotton cloth has now been displaced by Manchester goods, but large numbers of the Jolāhā or Muhammadan weaver class still live in the neighbourhood. The trade consists chiefly of food grains, oilseeds, piece-goods and fancy articles of European manufacture. The town contains the usual public offices; the sub-jail has accommodation for 70 prisoners.

Nawāda Town.—Head-quarters town of the sub-division of the same name in the Gayā District, Bengal, lying in 24° 53' N. and 85° 33' E. on both sides of the river Khuri. Population (1901) 5,908. Since the opening of the South Bihār Railway on which it is a station, Nawāda is growing into an important trade centre. The town contains the usual public offices; the sub-jail has accommodation for 20 prisoners.

Rajauli.—Village in the Nawāda sub-division of Gayā District, Bengal, situated in 24° 39' N. and 85° 30' E. on the left bank of the Dhanarjī river. Population (1901) 1,609. Rajauli is a large mart and is connected with the town of Nawāda and Bihār by a metalled road.

Sherghāti.—Town in the head-quarters sub-division of the Gayā District, Bengal, situated in 24° 33' N. and 84° 48' E., 21 miles south of Gayā town on the right bank of the river Morhar at

the point where it is crossed by the Grand Trunk Road. Population (1901) 2,641. Owing to its position on the Grand Trunk Road, Sherghāti was formerly a place of great importance, and it was the head-quarters of a sub-division which was broken up in 1871. It has since somewhat declined. There are still to be found here the descendants of skilled artisans, workers in brass, wood and iron. An interesting fort, said to have been built by the Kol Rājās, contains numerous pillars of polished granito, which are probably coeval with the later Barābar caves.

Tekāri Town.—Town in the head-quarters sub-division of the Gayā District, Bengal, situated in $24^{\circ} 56' N.$ and $84^{\circ} 50' E.$ on the left bank of the river Morhar, about 16 miles north-west of Gayā town. The population fell from 11,532 in 1891 to 6,437 in 1901, owing to a furious outbreak of plague at the time of the census and the consequent general exodus of the inhabitants. The town is noted as containing the seat of the TEKARI RAZ. It was constituted a municipality in 1885. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 8,800 and the expenditure Rs. 7,700. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 6,700, mainly from a tax on houses and lands, and the expenditure was Rs. 6,100.

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Shāhābād.—District of the Patna Division of Bengal, lying between $24^{\circ} 31'$ and $25^{\circ} 46' N.$, and $83^{\circ} 19'$ and $84^{\circ} 51' E.$, with an area of 4,373 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the Districts of Ghāzipur and Ballia in the United Provinces and by the Bengal District of Sāran; on the east by the Patna and Gayā Districts; on the south by Palāmau; and on the west by the Districts of Mirzāpur and Benares in the United Provinces. The Karamnāsā forms part of the western boundary.

Shāhābād consists of two distinct tracts differing in climate, scenery and productions. The northern portion, comprising about three-fourths of the whole area, presents the ordinary flat appearance common to the valley of the Ganges in the sub-province of Bihār; but it has a barer aspect than the trans-Gangetic Districts of Sāran, Darbhāngā, and Muzaffarpur. This tract is entirely under cultivation, and is dotted over with clumps of trees. The south of the District is occupied by the Kaimur hills, a branch of the great Vindhyan range. The Son and the Ganges may be called the chief rivers of Shāhābād, although neither of them anywhere crosses the boundary. The District lies in the angle formed by the junction of these two rivers, and is watered by several minor streams, all of which rise among the Kaimur hills and flow northwards towards the Ganges. The most noteworthy of these is the Karamnāsā, the accursed stream of Hindu mythology, which rises on the southern ridge of the Kaimur plateau, and flows north-west, crossing into Mirzāpur District near Kuluhā. After a course of 15 miles in that

District, it again touches Shahābād, which it separates from Benares; finally, it falls into the Ganges near Chausā. The Dohā or Kao rises on the plateau, and flowing north, forms a fine waterfall and enters the plains at the Tarrachāndi Pass, 2 miles south-east of Sasarām. Here it bifurcates—one branch, the Kudra, turning to the west and ultimately joining the Durganti; while the other, preserving the name of Kao, flows north and falls into the Ganges near Gaighāt. The Durganti rises on the southern ridge of the plateau and, after flowing north for 9 miles, rushes over a precipice 300 feet high, into the deep glen of Kadhar Kho; eventually it joins the Karamnāsā. It contains water all the year round, and during the rains boats of 1½ tons burthen can sail up-stream 50 or 60 miles from its mouth. Its chief tributaries are the Surā, Korā, Gonhā and Kudra.

The northern portion is covered by alluvium. The Kaimur Geology. hills in the south are formed of limestones, shales and red sandstones belonging to the Vindhyan system.

Near the Ganges the rice-fields have the usual weeds of such Botany. localities. Near villages there are often considerable groves of mango-trees and the palmyra (*Borassus flabelliformis*), some date palms (*Phoenix sylvestris*), and numerous more isolated examples of *Tamarindus* and similar more or less useful species. Further from the river the country is more diversified and sometimes a dry scrub jungle is met with, the consistent species of which are shrubs of the order of *Euphorbiaceae*, *Butea* and other leguminous trees, species of *Ficus*, *Schleichera*, *Wendlandia*, and *Gmelina*. The grasses that clothe the drier parts are generally of a coarse character. There are no Government forest, but the northern face of the Kaimur hills is overgrown with a stunted jungle of various species, while their southern slopes are covered with bamboos.

Large game abounds in the Kaimur hills. Tigers, bears, and Fauna. leopards are common; five or six varieties of deer are found; and among other animals wild boar, jackal, hyena and fox are also met with.

Owing to its distance from the sea, Shahābād has greater Climate extremes of climate than the south and east of Bengal. The mean temperature varies from 62° in January to 90° in May, the average maximum rising to 102° in the latter month. Owing to the hot and dry westerly winds which prevail in March and April, the humidity at this season is only 52 per cent. With the approach of the monsoon the humidity steadily increases; it remains steady at 88 throughout July and August, and then falls to 79 in November. The average annual rainfall is 43 inches, of which 6·5 fall in June, 11·7 in July, 12·3 in August and 6·8 in September.

Floods are occasionally caused by the river Son overflowing Natural its banks. In recent times the highest occurred in the years 1876 calamities.

and 1901; in the latter year the water rose 1·2 feet above any previously recorded level, and it is stated that the river Son was at one point 17 miles wide. Owing to the cutting of an embankment at Darāra by some villagers, the flood found its way into Arrah town and caused considerable damage to house property.

History.

Shāhābād was comprised within the ancient kingdom of Magadha, whose capital was at Rājgir in the Patna District, and its general history is outlined in the articles on MAGADHA and BIHAR, in which Magadha was eventually merged. It may be added that when the country relapsed into anarchy on the decline of the Gupta dynasty, Shāhābād came under the sway of a number of petty aboriginal chiefs and had a very small Aryan population. The ruling tribe at this period was the Chero, and the District was till a comparatively recent period in a great degree owned by the Cheros and governed by their chieftains. They were subsequently conquered by Rājput immigrants and few of them are now found in Shāhābād, though they still number several thousands in the adjoining District of Palāmanu. Under the Muhammadans Shāhābād formed part of the *sabāh* of Bihār, and in the 16th century was the scene of part of the struggles which made Sher Shāh emperor of Delhi. Sher Shāh, after establishing himself at Ohunār in the United Provinces, was engaged on the conquest of Bengal. In 1537 Humāyūn advanced against him, and after a siege of 6 months reduced his fortress of Ohunār and marched into Bengal. Sher Shāh then shut himself up in Rohtāsgarh, which he had captured by a stratagem, and made no effort to oppose his advance. Humāyūn spent 6 months in dissipation in Bengal, but then, finding that Sher Shāh had cut off his communications and that his brother at Delhi would not come to his assistance, he retraced his steps and was defeated at Chausā near Buxar. Buxar is also famous as the scene of the defeat in 1764 by Sir Hector Munro of Mir Kāsim, the last independent Nawab of Murshidābād, in the battle which finally won the Lower Provinces of Bengal for the British. Since then the only event of historical interest is the defence of the Judge's house at ARRĀH in the Mutiny of 1857.

Archæology.

Among Hindu remains may be mentioned the temple on the MUNDÉSWARE HILL dating from the sixth or seventh century. The short reign of Sher Shāh is still borne witness to by one of the finest specimens of Muhammadan sepulchral architecture, his own tomb at SASARĀM, which he originally held as his *jāgir*. His father's tomb in the same town and the tomb of Bakhtyār Khān, near Ohainpur, in the Bhabuā sub-division, are similar but less imposing. The small hill fort of SHERGARH, 26 miles south-west of Sasarām, dates from Sher Shāh's time, but at ROHTĀSGARH itself few traces of this period remain; the palace at this place is attributed to Mān Singh, Akbar's famous general

Other places of interest in Shāhābād are the CHAINPUR fort with several interesting monuments and tombs; Rāmgarh with a fort, and Darauti and Baidyanāth with ruins attributed to the Savars or Suirs; MASAR, the Mo-ho-so-lo of Hiuen Tsiang; CHAUSA, the scene of the defeat of Humāyūn in 1539 by Sher Shāh; TILORHU, near which are a fine waterfall and a very ancient Chero image; Patanā, once the capital of a Hindu Rājā of the Suar tribe; and Deo-Barunār and Deo-Mārkandeya villages, which contain several old temples and other remains, including an elaborately carved monolith at the former place. The sacred cave of Gupteswar lies in a valley in the Kaimur hills, 8 miles from Shergarh.

The population increased from 1,710,471 in 1872 to 1,940,900 ^{The} in 1881 and to 2,060,579 in 1891, but fell again to 1,962,696 ^{people} in 1901. The increase in the first two decades was largely due to the extension of cultivation owing to the opening of the irrigation canals. The climate of the northern part of the District is said to be steadily deteriorating. The surface is so flat and low that there is no outlet for the water which accumulates, while the introduction of the canals is said to have raised the water-level and made the drainage even worse than before. Fever began to make its ravages felt in 1879, and from that time the epidemic grew steadily worse until 1886, when the District was stigmatized as the worst in Bengal in respect of fever mortality.

At the census of 1891 a decrease was averted only by a large gain from migration. From 1892-1900 the vital statistics showed an excess of deaths over births amounting to 25,000, and in 1894 the death-rate exceeded 53 per mille. After fever the principal diseases are dysentery, diarrhoea, cholera and small-pox. Blindness is very common. Plague broke out in the head-quarters station just before the census of 1901. The number of deaths reported was small, but the alarm which the epidemic created sufficed to drive to their homes most of the temporary settlers from other Districts.

The principal statistics of the census of 1901 are reproduced below:—

SUB-DIVISION.	Area in square miles.	NUMBER OF		Population	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Arrah	015	2	1,245	600,950	767	- 5'9	80,255
Buxar	679	2	637	416,701	623	- 5'8	19,800
Passyām	1,420	1	1,004	239,635	362	+ 1'2	16,814
Shahabād	1,701	1	1,427	806,401	234	- 11'2	8,165
DISTRICT TOTAL	4,815	6	5,618	1,062,696	410	- 4'7	63,696

The principal towns are ARRAH, the head-quarters, SASARAM, DUMRAON and BUXAR. With the solitary exception of Sasaram, all the towns seem to be decadent. The population is densest in the north and east of the District, on the banks of the Ganges and Son, and decreases rapidly towards the south and south-east, where the Kaimur Hills afford but small space for cultivation. The Bhabua thana, with 181 persons to the square mile, has the scantiest population of any tract in South Bihar. The natives of this District are in demand all over Bengal as zamindars' peons and club men; they are especially numerous in Purnea, North Bengal, Dacca, and in and near Calcutta, and a large number find their way to Assam. Many also emigrate to the colonies. The vernacular is the Bhojpuri dialect of Bihari, but the Muhammadans and Kayasths mostly speak Awadhi Hindi. In 1901 Hindus numbered 1,819,641 or no less than 92·7 per cent. of the total population, and Musalmans 142,213, or 7·3 per cent.; there were 449 Jains and 375 Christians.

The most numerous castes are Ahirs or Goals (256,000), Brahmans and Rajputs each numbering 207,000, Koins (155,000), Chamars (121,000), Dosadhs (87,000), Bahans (82,000), Kahars (70,000), Kurmis (66,000), Kandus (63,000) and Tris (51,000), and, among Muhammadans, Jolahs (63,000). Agriculture supports 64·8 per cent. of the population, industries 17·7 per cent., commerce 0·5 and the professions 1·9 per cent.

The only Christian mission is a branch of the German Evangelical Lutheran Mission, whose head-quarters are at Ranchi. The number of native Christians in 1901 was 72.

Clay is the predominating soil, but in parts it is more or less mixed with sand. The clay soils, known as *karail*, *keual*, *matiyar* and *gurnat*, are suitable for all kinds of grains, and the level of the land and the possibility of irrigation are here the main factors in determining what crop shall be cultivated. *Doras* is a rich loam containing both clay and sand, and is suited for sugarcane, poppy, mustard and linseed. Sandy soil is known as *balnat*, and when it is of very loose texture as *dhas*. The alluvial tract in the north is extensively irrigated by canals and is entirely under cultivation. The low-lying land in the neighbourhood of the Ganges, locally known as *kadni*, is annually inundated so that rice cannot be grown, but it produces fine cold weather crops. Along the west bank of the Son within about 3 miles from the river the soil is sandy and requires continuous irrigation to produce good crops. To the west of this the prevalent soil south of the Grand Trunk Road is *doras*, which is annually flooded and fertilized by the hill streams. In the Sasaram sub-division *karail* soil is most common and grows excellent *rabi* crops. The undulating plateau of the Kaimur Hills in the south is unprotected by irrigation and yields poor and precarious crops.

Their
castes and
occupations.

Christian
Missions.

General
agricul-
tural
condi-
tions.

The salient agricultural statistics for 1903-04 are given below, Chief areas being in square miles :—

Chief
agricul-
tural
statistics
and
principal
crops.

SUB-DIVISION.				Total.	Cultivated.	Irrigated.
Arrrah	...	...	...	913	607	212
Bazar	...	...	...	669	408	167
Sasaram	...	...	...	1,490	450	224
Bhabua	...	...	...	1,301	505	20
TOTAL				4,373	2,000	623

There are altogether about 311 square miles of culturable waste, statistics for each sub-division not being available, and it is estimated that 112 square miles are twice cropped.

The staple food crop of the District is rice, grown on 1,307 square miles, of which 1,112 square miles are under *aghani* or winter rice. This crop is transplanted in June and July (except in very low lands, where it is sometimes sown broad cast), and the water is retained in the rice fields by ridges till the middle of September, when it is allowed to drain off. The fields are allowed to dry for 12 to 14 days, after which the crop again requires water, for which it depends on the *kathiyā* rain, or failing this, on irrigation. These late rains are the most important in the year, as they are required not only to bring the winter crop to maturity, but also to provide moisture for the sowing of the *rabi* crops. *Horo*, or spring rice, is grown in river beds and on the edge of marshes; it is sown in January and February, transplanted after a month, and cut in April and May. Of the other crops of the rainy season, the principal are Indian corn or *makaī*, *marā*, *jowār* and *bājra*; these are grown on well drained high lands. The *rabi* crops consist of cereals and pulses. The chief cereals are wheat (188 square miles), barley (81 square miles) and oats. They are sown in October and November and harvested between the last week of February and the middle of April. The pulses include peas, gram and linseed; gram and linseed are grown as a second crop and are sown in the standing *aghani* rice about a fortnight before it is cut. Other important crops are poppy (25 square miles) and sugar-cane (54 square miles).

The opening of the Son Canals has resulted in a considerable increase in the cultivated area. An experimental farm is maintained at Dumraon, but even in the adjoining villages the cultivators are slow to profit by its lessons. Little advantage has been taken of the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts except in the famine years 1896-98, when Rs. 75,000 was advanced under the latter Act.

Improvements in
agricul-
tural
the
total
practice.

Cattle. The cattle are for the most part poor, but good bulls are kept in the Buxar Central jail, and their offspring find a ready sale. Pasture is scarce except in the Kaimur Hills, where numerous herds are sent to graze during the rains. A large cattle fair is held at Barahpur at which agricultural stock and produce are exhibited for prizes.

Irrigation. The District is served by the SON CANALS system and receives about 80 per cent. of the total quantity of water supplied by it. Wells and *dhars*, or reservoirs, are also maintained all over the District for the purposes of irrigation. In 1901 it was estimated that 489 square miles were irrigated from the canals, 364 square miles from wells and 937 square miles from *dhars*. The extent to which an artificial water-supply is used depends on the variations in the rainfall; in 1903-04 the area irrigated from the Government canals was 623 square miles.

Minerals. Red sandstone from the Kaimur hills is extensively used for building purposes, for which it is admirably adapted. Limestone, which is obtained from the same locality, is commonly dark gray or blackish, and burns into a very good white lime. *Kankar* or nodular limestone is found in almost all parts of the plains, and especially in the beds of rivers and along the banks of the Son; it is used for metalling roads and is also burnt to make lime. A small quantity of alum was formerly manufactured in the area north of Rohtāgarh from slates belonging to the Kaimur group of the Vindhyan series. Copperas or iron sulphate is found in the same region.

Arts and manufactures. Sugar is manufactured throughout the District, the principal centres of the industry being at Nāsriganj and Jagdispur. Iron sugar-cane mills are manufactured at Bihiyā and are now in general use over a great part of Northern India. Carpets and pottery are made at Sasarām; the speciality of the pottery consists in its being painted with lac and overlaid with mercury and gilt. Blankets and coarse cloth are woven throughout the District. A small quantity of hand-made paper is produced at Hariharganj. Saltpetre is manufactured in small quantities, the output in 1903-04 being 5,000 maunds.

Commerce. The principal imports are rice, gram and other food-grains from the neighbouring Districts, European cotton piece-goods and kerosene oil from Calcutta, and coal and coke from Hazaribagh and Palāmau. The exports include wheat, gram, pulses, and oilseeds, chiefly to Calcutta, and raw sugar and *gur* to the United Provinces and elsewhere. The chief centres of trade are Arrāh, Dumraon, Buxar and Chausā on the East Indian Railway, Sasarām and Dehri on the Gayā-Mughal Sami branch and Nāsriganj on the Son. The main lines of communication are the railways, the Ganges and Son rivers and the Son Canals, to which goods are brought by bullock carts and pack bullocks.

The main line of the East Indian Railway runs for 60 miles from east to west through the north of the District, and the Mughal Sarai-Gayā section opened in 1900 traverses the south. In addition to 58 miles of the Grand Trunk Road from Calcutta to Benares, which passes through Dehri-on-Son, Sasarām and Jahānābād and is maintained from Provincial funds, the District contains 186 miles of metalled and 532 miles of unmetalled roads under the control of the District board; there are also 1,218 miles of village tracks. The principal local roads are those which connect Arrah with Buxar and Sasarām. Feeder roads connect the main roads with the stations on the railway and the principal places on the rivers.

The Ganges is navigable throughout the year, and a tri-weekly steamer service for passengers and goods traffic plies as far as Benares, touching at Buxar and Chausā in the Shahābād District. Navigation on the Son is intermittent and of little commercial importance. In the dry season the small depth of water prevents boats of more than 20 maunds proceeding up-stream, while in the rains the violent floods greatly impede navigation, though boats of 500 or 600 maunds occasionally sail up. Of the other rivers the Karamnāsā, the Dhobā or Kao, the Durgauti and the Surā are navigable only during the rainy season. The main canals of the Son Canals system are navigable; a bi-weekly service of steamers runs from Dehri to Arrah. But here, as elsewhere, most of the water-borne traffic is carried in country boats, some of which have a capacity of as much as 1,000 maunds. The canal-borne traffic used to be considerable, but has suffered greatly from competition with the Mughal Sarai-Gayā Branch of the East Indian Railway. The only ferries of any importance are those across the Ganges.

The District has frequently suffered from famine. The famine of 1866, preceded as it was by two years of bad harvests, caused great distress. The Government relief measures were supplemented by private liberality, but 3,161 deaths from starvation were reported. There was another, but less severe, famine in 1869. In 1873 more than three-fourths of the rice crop was destroyed by very heavy floods and the subsequent complete absence of rain; the loss would have been even greater had not the Son water been turned into the unfinished canals and freely distributed. Relief works, in the shape of road repairs, were opened in December, and a sum of 1·18 lakhs were spent in wages, in addition to Rs. 30,000 paid to non-workers, and Rs. 1,600 advanced to cultivators for the purchase of seed grains. In the famine of 1896-97 the distressed area comprised the whole of the Bhabuā and the southern portion of the Sasarām sub-division. Relief works were started in October 1896 and were not finally closed till July 1897, during which period

560,031 days' wages were paid to adult males employed on piece work, and 175,105 to those on a daily wage, the aggregate payments amounting to Rs. 74,000. Gratuitous relief by means of grain doles was also given, and poor-houses and kitchens were opened. The total cost of gratuitous relief was rather less than 2 lakhs, and the total cost of the famine operations was 3.86 lakhs, of which Rs. 30,000 was paid from District and the balance from Provincial funds.

District
sub-divi-
sions and
staff.

For general administrative purposes the District is divided into 4 sub-divisions with head-quarters at ARRAH, BUXAR, SASARĀM and BHABUA. Subordinate to the District Magistrate-Collector at Arrah, the District head-quarters, is a staff consisting of an Assistant Magistrate-Collector, 6 Deputy Magistrate-Collectors and 2 sub-deputy collectors. The sub-divisions of Sasarām and Buxar are each in the charge of an Assistant Collector aided by a sub-deputy collector, and the Bhabua sub-division is under a Deputy Magistrate-Collector. The Executive Engineer of the Arrah Division is stationed at Arrah; an Assistant Engineer resides at Koāth and the Executive Engineer of the Buxar Division at Buxar.

Civil and
criminal
justice.

The permanent civil judicial staff consists of a District Judge, who is also Sessions Judge, 2 Subordinate Judges and 3 Munsifs at Arrah, one Munsif at Sasarām and another at Buxar. For the disposal of criminal work, there are the courts of the Sessions Judge, District Magistrate and the above mentioned Assistant, Deputy and sub-deputy magistrates. The district was formerly notorious for the number of its dacoits and for the boldness of their depredations; but this crime is no longer common. The crimes now most prevalent are burglary, cattle-theft and rioting, the last being due to disputes about land and irrigation.

Land
revenue.

During the reign of Akbar, Shahābād formed a part of *sarkār* Rohtās lying for the most part between the rivers Son and Karamnāsā. Half of it, comprising the zamīndārī of Bhojpur, was subsequently formed into a separate *sarkār* called Shahābād. The land revenue demand of these two *sarkārs*, which was fixed at 10.22 lakhs by Todar Mal in 1582, had risen to 13.66 lakhs at the time of the settlement under Ali Vardi Khān in 1750, but it had again fallen to 10.38 lakhs at the time of the decennial settlement which was concluded in 1790, and declared to be permanent in 1793. The demand gradually rose to 13.55 lakhs in 1843 and 16.72 lakhs in 1862, the increase being due to the revenue survey which took place in 1846. In 1903-04 it was 17.27 lakhs payable by 10,147 estates, of which 9,463 with a demand of 14.98 lakhs were permanently settled, 544 with a demand of 1.38 lakhs were temporarily settled, while the remainder were held direct by Government. The incidence of land revenue is R. 0-13-9 per cultivated acre, being

about 22 per cent. of the estimated rental. Rents vary with the class of soil, and for very good land suitable for poppy as much as Rs. 30 per acre is occasionally paid. Rent is generally paid in kind, especially in the Bhabua and Sasaram sub-divisions. The average holding of a ryot is estimated at 5½ acres. The only unusual tenure is the *guzantha*, which connotes not only a right to hold at a fixed rate in perpetuity but a hereditary and transferable interest in the land. The true *guzantha* tenure is confined mainly to Bhojpur *pargana*, and the term is used elsewhere merely to indicate the existence of occupancy rights. The following table shows the collections of land revenue and of total revenue, under the principal heads, in thousands of rupees:—

		1883-81.	1890-91.	1900-01.	1903-04.
Land revenue	...	17.35	16.74	17.56	17.21
Total revenue	...	25.00	26.23	28.46	27.57

Outside the municipalities of ARRAN, JAGDISPUR, BUXAR, Local and DUMRAON, BHARUA and SASARAM local affairs are managed by municipal the District board with subordinate local boards in each sub-division. In 1903-04 its income was Rs. 2,63,000, of which Rs. 2,03,000 was derived from rates, and the expenditure was Rs. 2,89,000, the chief item being Rs. 2,15,000 expended on civil works. Government.

In 1903 the District contained 11 police stations and 18 Police and outposts. The force subordinate to the District Superintendent of Police in that year consisted of 4 inspectors, 43 sub-inspectors, 46 head-constables and 526 constables; there was also a rural police force of 301 *daffadars* and 4,254 *chaukidars*. In addition to the District jail at Arran with accommodation for 278 prisoners, there is a Central jail at Buxar with accommodation for 1,301, while subsidiary jails at Sasaram, Buxar and Bhabua can hold 60. The prisoners in the Central jail are chiefly employed in weaving and tent making.

Of the population in 1901, 4.3 per cent. (8.6 males and 0.3 females) could read and write. The total number of pupils under instruction at primary schools fell from 20,883 in 1883-81 to 10,022 in 1892-93, but increased again to 23,032 in 1900-01, while 20,218 boys and 445 girls were at school in 1903-01, being respectively 18.6 and 0.28 per cent. of the children of school-going age. The number of educational institutions, public and private, in that year was 1,001, including 23 secondary schools, 623 primary schools and 358 other schools. Two small schools for aborigines are maintained at Rehal and Dahur. The expenditure on education was 1.36 lakhs, of which Rs. 17,000 was paid from Provincial Education.

funds, Rs. 40,000 from District funds, Rs. 3,000 from municipal funds and Rs. 59,000 from fees.

Medical.

In 1903 the District contained 12 dispensaries, of which 7 had accommodation for 115 in-door patients. The cases of 81,000 out-patients and 2,300 in-patients were treated, and 8,000 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 35,000, of which Rs. 5,000 was derived from Government contributions, Rs. 7,000 from local, and Rs. 10,000 from municipal funds and Rs. 10,000 from subscriptions.

Vaccination.

Vaccination is compulsory only in municipal areas. During 1903-04 the number of persons successfully vaccinated was 48,000 or 25·8 per thousand.

[L. S. S. O'Malley, *District Gazetteer*, Calcutta, 1906; M. Martin (Buchanan-Hamilton), *Eastern India*, vol. i, 1838.]

Arrah Sub-division.—Head-quarters sub-division of the Shāhābād District, Bengal, lying between 25° 10' and 25° 46' N., and 84° 17' and 84° 51' E., with an area of 913 square miles. The sub-division is a low-lying alluvial flat bounded on the north by the Ganges and on the east by the river Son. Its population was 699,956 in 1901, compared with 743,582 in 1891, the density being 767 persons to the square mile. It contains 2 towns, **ARRAH**, its head-quarters (population 46,170), and **JAGDISPUR** (11,451), and 1,245 villages, one of which, **Binra**, on the East Indian Railway is an important trade centre. Arrah is famous on account of the gallant defence of the Judge's house by a handful of Europeans and Sikhs against an overwhelming force of mutineers in 1857.

Buxar Sub-division.—North-western sub-division of the Shāhābād District, Bengal, lying between 25° 16' and 25° 43' N., and 83° 46' and 84° 22' E., with an area of 669 square miles. The sub-division consists of a level plain entirely under cultivation and extensively irrigated by canals; a strip of land to the north along the Ganges is liable to inundation from the overflow of that river. Its population was 416,704 in 1901, compared with 438,731 in 1891, the density being 623 persons to the square mile. It contains 2 towns **BUXAR**, its head-quarters (population 13,945), and **DUMRAON** (17,236), and 937 villages. Buxar is famous as the scene of the defeat by Sir Hector Munro of Mir Kāsim in 1764, while at **CHAUSA**, near by, Humāyūn was defeated by Sher Shah in 1539.

Sasaram Sub-division.—South-eastern sub-division of Shāhābād District, Bengal, lying between 24° 31' and 25° 22' N., and 83° 30' and 84° 27' E., with an area of 1,490 square miles. Its population was 534,635 in 1901, compared with 533,356 in 1891, the density being 362 persons to the square mile. The sub-division comprises two distinct tracts, that to the north being an alluvial flat extensively irrigated by canals, while the southern portion

is occupied by the Kaimur hills, an undulating plateau covered with jungle. These hills afford little space for cultivation, and this part of the sub-division suffered severely in the famine of 1896-97. The sub-division contains one town SASARAM, its head-quarters (population 23,644), and 1,906 villages. The head-works of the Son Canals system are at DENRI. There are old forts at SHERGARH and ROHTASGARH, and Sasaram and TILOTHU also contain antiquities of interest.

Bhabua Sub-division—Western sub-division of Shāhābād District, Bengal, lying between $24^{\circ} 32'$ and $25^{\circ} 25' N.$, and $83^{\circ} 19'$ and $83^{\circ} 54' E.$, with an area of 1,301 square miles. The sub-division consists of two sharply defined portions. To the north there is a flat alluvial plain, and to the south is the Kaimur range, a tract of hills and jungle, sparsely cultivated and thinly populated. Its population was 306,401 in 1901, compared with 344,902 in 1891, the density being 236 persons to the square mile. The Kaimur hills afford little space for cultivation, and the Bhabua thāna with 181 persons to the square mile has the scantiest population of any tract in South Bihār. The whole of the sub-division is very unhealthy, and it also suffered severely in the famine of 1896-97. It contains one town BHABUA, its head-quarters (population 5,660), and 1,427 villages. An old Hindu temple stands on Mundeswari Hill, and Chainpur also contains antiquities of some interest.

Dumraon Rāj.—Estate covering an area of about 758 square miles in the Shāhābād District, Bengal. The family of the Mahārāja trace their pedigree back to Rājā Vikramājī, from whom the Samrat era of the Hindus is reckoned. Of their ancestors 69 were the rulers of Ujjain in Mālwa. The founder of the family in the Shāhābād District was Rājā Santana Shāhi who is said to have settled in the village of Karūr in 1320. During the war between Sher Shāh and Humāyūn (1534-1540) Gajan Shāhi and Dalpat Shāhi, two rival princes of the family, joined opposing sides, and Gajan Shāhi received Rohtās and Shāhābād and the title of Rājā from Shor Shāh. Rājā Nārāyan Mal was the sole proprietor of Bhojpur and Jagdispur between 1607-1621; his brother Rājā Rūdra Pratāp, who succeeded him, removed his residence to new Bhojpur. The head-quarters of the family were moved to Dumraon in 1745. In recent times Mahārāja Maheswar Baksh Singh, who came into possession in 1844, was made a K.O.S.I. for his loyalty and services to Government during the Mutiny. He was succeeded in 1881 by his only son, Rādhā Prasad Singh, who had already received the title of Rājā for his services during the famine of 1873-74. He was granted the title of Mahārāja Bahādur and was subsequently made a K.C.I.E. in 1888. He died in 1894, leaving the present Mahārāni Beni Prasad Kuari as sole heiress and executrix to

the estate for his only daughter the senior Mahārānī of Rewah. The estate is permanently settled; in 1903-04 the current demand for land revenue and cesses payable to Government was 4·8 lakhs. The Rāj maintains an experimental farm at Dumraon, and 2 important fairs are held at Barahpur in Phālgun (February—March) and Baisākh (April—May) attended respectively by about 120,000 and 150,000 persons; at the former agricultural produce and stock are exhibited for prizes. A grant of 1,500 acres in the Toungoo District of Upper Burma is also held by the Rānī.

Arrah Town (Arā).—Head-quarters of Shāhābād District, Bengal, situated in 25° 34' N. and 84° 40' E. on the East Indian Railway, 368 miles from Calcutta. The population increased from 39,386 in 1872 to 42,998 in 1881 and to 46,905 in 1891, but fell to 46,170 in 1901, the decline being probably due to the plague. Of the population in that year 32,903 were Hindus and 12,797 Musalmāns, while among the remainder were 433 Jains. The town of Arrah is invested with a special historical interest as being the scene of a stirring episode in the Mutiny of 1857. A body of rebels, consisting of about 2,000 sepoy from Dinapore and four times as many armed villagers under Kuār Singh, marched in the end of July on Arrah. They reached the town on the 27th of that month, and forthwith released all the prisoners in the jail, and plundered the treasury. The European women and children had already been sent away, but there remained in the town about a dozen Englishmen and three or four other Christians of different races. The Commissioner of Patna, Mr. Tayler, had supplied a garrison of 60 Sikhs. At this time the East Indian Railway was in course of construction, under the local superintendence of Mr. Vicers Boyle, who fortunately had some knowledge of fortification. He occupied two houses, now known as the Judge's houses, the smaller of which, a two-storied building about 20 yards from the main house, was forthwith fortified and provisioned. The lower windows, etc., were built up, and sand-bags ranged on the roof. When the news came that the mutineers were advancing along the Arrah road, the Europeans and Sikhs retired to the smaller house. The rebels, after pillaging the town, made straight for Mr. Boyle's little fortress. A volley dispersed them, and forced them to seek the shelter of the larger house, only a few yards off, whence they carried on an almost continuous fire. They attempted to burn or smoke out the little garrison, and tried various other safe modes of attack, but they had no guns. Kuār Singh, however, produced two small cannon which he had dug up, and artillery missiles were improvised out of the house furniture. In the small house there was no thought of surrender. Mr. Horwald Wake, the Magistrate, put himself in command of the Sikhs, who, though sorely tempted by their countrymen among the mutineers,

remained faithful throughout the siege. A relieving party of 150 European troops, sent by water from Dinapore, fell into an ambuscade on landing in Shahābād; and as time passed away and no help arrived, provisions and water began to run short. A bold midnight sally resulted in the capture of 4 sheep, and water was obtained by digging a well 18 feet deep inside the house. A mine of the enemy was met by countermining. On the 2nd August, the besieged party observed an unusual excitement in the neighbourhood. The fire of the enemy had slackened and but few of them were visible. The sound of a distant cannonade was heard. Before sunset the eight days siege was at an end, and on the following morning the gallant garrison welcomed their deliverers—Major Vincent Eyre with 150 men of the 5th Fusiliers, a few mounted volunteers, and 8 guns with 34 artillerymen. Major Eyre had dispersed Kuar Singh's forces on his way to Arrah, and they never rallied.

Arrah was constituted a municipality in 1865. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 52,000 and the expenditure Rs. 47,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 55,000, including Rs. 21,000 derived from a tax on persons (or property tax), Rs. 11,000 from a water-rate, Rs. 5,000 from a tax on vehicles, Rs. 4,000 from a municipal market and Rs. 6,000 as special grants from Provincial and local funds for medical purposes. The incidence of taxation was R. 0-14-3 per head of the population. In the same year the expenditure amounted to Rs. 48,000, the chief items being Rs. 10,000 on conservancy, Rs. 5,000 on water-supply, Rs. 8,000 on medical relief, and Rs. 5,000 on roads. The town is supplied with filtered water from the Son; the works, which cost upwards of 4 lakhs, were opened in 1894. The town contains the usual public buildings, and is the headquarters of Shahābād. The District jail has accommodation for 278 prisoners, who are employed chiefly on oil-pressing, thread twisting and carpet making.

Bhabuā Town.—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name in the Shahābād District, Bengal, situated in 25° 3' N. and 83° 37' E. Population (1901) 5,660. It is connected by road with Bhabuā Road station on the Mughal Sarai-Gayā section of the East Indian Railway. Bhabuā was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 4,200 and the expenditure Rs. 3,500. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 5,000, mainly from a tax on persons (or property tax), and the expenditure was Rs. 4,000. The town contains the usual public buildings; the sub-jail has accommodation for 14 prisoners.

Bihiyā.—Village, in the head-quarters sub-division of the Shahābād District, Bengal, situated in 25° 33' N. and 84° 28' E. on the East Indian Railway 382 miles from Calcutta. Population

(1901) 764. Biliyā is best known for the manufacture of iron sugar-cane mills, which are now in general use throughout Northern India.

Buxar Town (*Baksar*).—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name in the Shāhābād District, Bengal, situated in 25° 34' N. and 83° 58' E. on the south bank of the Ganges. Population (1901) 13,945. Buxar is a station on the East Indian Railway 411 miles from Calcutta and is a considerable centre of trade. It is famous as the scene of the defeat in 1764 by Sir Hector Munro of Mir Kasim, the last independent Nawab of Murshidābād, in the battle which finally won the Lower Provinces of Bengal for the British. It is a place of great sanctity and is said to have been originally called *Vedāgarbha*, the womb of the Vedas, as many of the inspired writers of the Vedic hymns lived here. Buxar was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 8,400 and the expenditure Rs. 7,700. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 9,500, mainly derived from a tax on persons (or property tax), and the expenditure was Rs. 12,000. Buxar contains the usual public buildings, and a Central jail with accommodation for 1,391 prisoners is also situated here. The chief industry carried on is the manufacture of tents, of which 2,705 were supplied to Government departments in 1903. Cloth weaving and the manufacture of prison clothing and uniforms for the police and *chaukidars*, as well as for the Opium and Jail departments, are also extensively carried on. A subsidiary jail has accommodation for 61 prisoners.

Chainpur.—Village in the Bhabuā sub-division of the Shāhābād District, Bengal, situated in 25° 2' N. and 83° 31' E. 7 miles west of Bhabuā town. Population (1901) 2,870. The place was formerly the residence of the Chainpur Rājās who were expelled by the Pathāns about 250 years ago. The old fort of Chainpur is surrounded by a ditch and defended by a stone rampart flanked with bastions; it has a large gate in the northern and a smaller one in the southern curtain. The space within is covered with buildings, partly of brick and partly of stone, with several large wells. A mosque built as a tomb over Fateh Khān, who married a daughter of the emperor Sher Shāh, is still in good condition.

Chausā.—Village in the Buxar sub-division of the Shāhābād District, Bengal, situated in 25° 31' N. and 83° 54' E. on the East Indian Railway close to the east bank of the Karamnāsā river, 4 miles west of Buxar town. Population (1901) 1,108. It is noted as the scene of the defeat of the emperor Humāyūn by the Afghān Shor Shāh in June 1539. The emperor with a few friends just managed to escape by crossing the Ganges, but 8,000 Mughal troops perished in attempting to follow him.

Dehri.—Village in the Sasaram sub-division of the Shahabad District, Bengal, situated in $24^{\circ} 55'$ N. and $84^{\circ} 11'$ E. on the west bank of the Son, where it is crossed by the Grand Trunk Road and the Mughal Sarai-Gaya section of the East Indian Railway. Population (1901) 4,296. It is important as the site of the headworks of the SON CANALS system.

Dumraon Town.—Town in the Buxar sub-division of the Shahabad District, Bengal, situated in $25^{\circ} 33'$ N. and $84^{\circ} 9'$ E. on the East Indian Railway, 400 miles from Calcutta. Population (1901) 17,236. It is best known in connection with the Dumraon Raj, to which family it has given its name. The principal buildings are the palace and pavilion of the Raj; and it also contains an experimental farm, maintained by the latter. Dumraon was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 7,500 and the expenditure Rs. 6,600. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 9,600, mainly derived from a tax on persons (or property tax), and the expenditure was Rs. 8,000.

Jagdispur.—Town in the head-quarters sub-division of the Shahabad District, Bengal, situated in $25^{\circ} 28'$ N. and $84^{\circ} 26'$ E. Population (1901) 11,461. The town is a centre of the sugar industry. Jagdispur was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 4,600 and the expenditure Rs. 4,400. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 6,600, mainly from a tax on persons (or property tax), and the expenditure was Rs. 7,000.

Masār.—Village in the head-quarters sub-division of the Shahabad District, Bengal, situated in $25^{\circ} 33'$ N., and $84^{\circ} 35'$ E., a little to the south of the East Indian Railway about 6 miles west of Arrah. Population (1901) 3,073. Masār has been identified with the Mo-ho-so-lo of the Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsiang, and from his account must then have stood close to the Ganges. The river now flows 9 miles to the north, but traces of the high banks of its old channel still remain. The old name of Masār, as proved by 7 inscriptions in the Jain temple of Parasnāth, was Mahāsārā; but the original name is said to have been Sonitpur, famous as the residence of Bān Rājā, whose daughter Ushā was married to a grandson of Krishna.* There is a Jain temple here with several Brāhmanical images and an inscription dated 1386. Dr. Buchanan-Hamilton discovered some Buddhist idols in a heap of mud and bricks to the west of the village, which he assigned to the Cheros. The town contains 14 fine old wells and numerous tanks. The population of the old town has been estimated at about 20,000. At present, it is only a

* Terpur in Assam also claims and to have been called Sonitpur and to have been the capital of this Rājā.

straggling village. A colossal image found at Masār was in 1832 removed to Arrah, and the fragments being pieced together, it was set up in the public garden at that place; it appears to be of the Gupta period. Among other local statues, those of Mahāmāya and Bhairab are noteworthy.

Mundeswari.—Hill in the Bhabuā sub-division of the Shāhābād District, Bengal, situated in $25^{\circ} 2' N.$ and $83^{\circ} 35' E.$ It is the site of an interesting Hindu temple, dating from the sixth or seventh century, which is said to have been built by Manda Dailya, probably a Chero chief. [M. Martin (Buchanan-Hamilton), *Eastern India*, vol. i, 1838.]

Rohtāsgarh.—Hill fort in the Sasarām sub-division of the Shāhābād District, Bengal, situated in $24^{\circ} 37' N.$ and $83^{\circ} 55' E.$ about 30 miles south of Sasarām town, overlooking the junction of the Koel with the Son river. Population (1901) 1,899. It derives its name from the young prince Rohitāswa, son of Haris Chandra, king of the Solar race. Little or nothing is known concerning the persons who held the fort from the time of Haris Chandra up to 1100, when it is supposed to have belonged to Pratāp Dhawala, father of the last Hindu king. Shor Shāh captured Rohtāsgarh in 1539, and immediately began to strengthen the fortifications; but the work had not progressed very far, when he selected a more favourable site in the neighbourhood at the place still known as Shergarh. Mān Singh, on being appointed viceroy of Bengal and Bihār, selected Rohtās as his stronghold; and, according to two inscriptions in Sanskrit and Persian, erected many of the buildings now existing. When he died, the fortress was attached to the office of Wazīr of the emperor, by whom the governors were appointed. The governor of the place in 1622-24 protected Shāh Jahān's family when that prince was in rebellion against his father. Rohtās was surrendered to the English soon after the battle of Buxar in 1764. The remains of the fortress now occupy a part of the table-land, about 4 miles from east to west, and 5 miles from north to south, with a circumference of nearly 28 miles. On the south-east corner of the plateau is an old temple called Rohtāsān, where an image of Rohitāswa was worshipped until destroyed by Aurangzeb. It is situated on a steep peak and is approached by a great stone staircase arranged in groups of steps with succo-sivo landings. Close by is the temple of Haris Chandra, a graceful building consisting of a small pillared hall covered by five domes. Within the gate at Rāj Ghāt there must have been a very considerable building, which is thought to have formed the private residence of the commandant. Other remains, some of which date back to the time of Sher Shāh, are scattered over the plateau. The most interesting of these is the palace or Mahālsarai, which is attributed to Mān Singh. It is irregularly built without any architectural

pretensions, the most striking building being the main gateway, a massive structure consisting of a large Gothic arch, with the figure of an elephant on each side. The palace is however of great interest as being the only specimen of Mughal civil architecture in Bengal and as giving an insight into the conditions of military life under that empire.

Sasarām Town (*Sahsarām*).—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name in the Shāhābād District, Bengal, situated in $24^{\circ} 57' N.$ and $84^{\circ} 1' E.$ on the Mughal Sarai-Gayā section of the East Indian Railway, 406 miles from Calcutta. Population (1901) 23,644, of whom 13,647 were Hindus and 9,994 Musalmāns. The name Sasarām signifies one thousand toys: a certain Asur or infidel is said to have lived here who had a thousand arms, each holding a separate plaything. The town is noted as containing the tomb of the Afghan Sher Shāh, who conquered Humāyūn, and subsequently became emperor of Delhi. His mausoleum is at the west end of the town, within a large tank, the excavated earth of which has been thrown into unshapely banks some distance off. The tomb itself consists of an octagonal hall surrounded by an arcade, which forms a gallery; and the roof is supported by four Gothic arches. The tomb of Sher Shāh's father, Hasan Shāh Sūrī, is similar but less imposing. To the east of the town, near the summit of a spur of the Kaimur range on which the tomb of Hazrat Chandan Shahid *pir* is now venerated, there is an important Asoka inscription. Sasarām was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 16,000 and the expenditure Rs. 15,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 17,000, mainly derived from a tax on persons (or property tax) and the receipts from a large municipal market, and the expenditure was Rs. 16,000. [M. Martin (Buchanan-Hamilton), *Eastern India*, vol. i, 1838, pp. 423-430; *Archæological Survey Reports*, vol. ix, pp. 132-139.]

Shergarh.—Ruined fort in the Sasarām sub-division of the Shāhābād District, Bengal, situated in $24^{\circ} 50' N.$ and $83^{\circ} 44' E.$ 20 miles south-west of Sasarām town. The spot was selected by Sher Shāh as the site of a fortress soon after he had begun strengthening Rohitāsgarh, which he abandoned on discovering the superior advantages of Shergarh. The top of the rock is crowned with a rampart strengthened by numerous bastions and bulwarks with a grand ascent to the principal gate on the north. The fort itself contains several subterranean halls. About 7 miles from Shergarh is a cave called the Gupteswar cave. One of the numerous stalactites is worshipped as the god Mahādeo. The cave has never been thoroughly explored.

Tilotha.—Village in the Sasarām sub-division of Shāhābād District, Bengal, situated in $24^{\circ} 49' N.$ and $84^{\circ} 6' E.$ 5 miles west

of the gorge by which the Tutrāhi, a branch of the Kudra river, leaves the hills. Population (1901) 2,592. This spot is sacred to the goddess Situla. The gorge itself is half a mile long, terminating in a sheer house-shoe precipice from 180 to 250 feet high, down which the river falls. The rock at first recedes at an angle of 100° for about one-third of the height; but above that it overhangs, forming a re-entering angle. The chief object of interest is an image, bearing the date 1332, which is said to have been placed here by the Cheros. It represents a many-armed female killing a man as he springs from the neck of a buffalo. A fair is held here every year on the last day of *Kārtik*, which is attended by about 100,000 persons.

Boun-
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Sāran District.—District in the Patnā Division, Bengal, lying between $25^\circ 39'$ and $26^\circ 39'$ N., and $83^\circ 54'$ and $85^\circ 12'$ E., with an area of 2,674* square miles. The name is said to be derived from the Sanskrit *Sarana*, meaning "refuge," and there is a legend that some demons converted there by Buddha sought the "refuge" of the Buddhist triad, Buddha, Dharmā and Sangha. The District is a wedge of alluvial soil, between the Ganges and the Gandak rivers, with its apex pointing south-eastwards towards Patna city. The Gandak separates it on the east from Muzaffarpur and Champāran, and on the south the Ganges forms the boundary dividing Sāran from the Patna and Shāhābād Districts. The western boundary marches with the United Provinces. The Gogra, running parallel with the Gandak, meets the Ganges opposite the head-quarters station of CHAPRA and forms the south-west boundary between Sāran and the Ballia District, while an irregular base-line drawn north-east from the Gogra to the Gandak constitutes the western boundary with Gorakhpur.

Sāran is a beautifully wooded plain, highly cultivated and densely populated, without a hill and hardly any elevations except those which mark the site of some old fortress or deserted village; it is very fertile and is intersected by numerous water channels which flow in a south-easterly direction. The GANGES, GANDAK and GOGRA are described elsewhere. The Dāha or Sandi, Gandaki, Dhanai and Ghangrī were originally spill-channels from the Gandak, with which, however, their connection has been severed by the Gandak embankment; they form the system known as the Sāran canals. Similar streams are the Khanuā, Jharahi and Khatsā, which ultimately fall into the Gogra or Ganges. The channels of the Ganges, Gandak and Gogra are perpetually oscillating, and sand banks form in the bed of the river one year, only to be swept away the next, so that frequent changes in jurisdiction are necessary.

* The area, which differs from that given in the 1901 census report (2,656 square miles), is that ascertained in the recent survey operations.

The soil consists of alluvial deposits, the basis of which belongs Geology. to an older alluvial formation composed of massive argillaceous beds, disseminated throughout which occur *kankar* and pisolitic ferruginous concretions. These clay soils, locally known as *bhāt*, are exposed in marshy depressions called *dhauras*, which are scattered over the District. Elsewhere they are overlaid with more recent sandy deposits known as *bāngar*.

Though the District contains no forests, it is well, timbered, Botany. the most conspicuous trees being *sissū* (*Dilbergia sissou*), red cotton tree (*Bombax malabaricum*), and tamarind. The village sites are embedded in groves of the palmyra palm (*Borassus flabelliformis*), the date palm (*Phoenix sylvestris*) and other semi-spontaneous and more or less useful species. The groves of mango trees planted in beautifully regular lines are a marked feature of the landscape. The surface is highly cultivated, but the banks of streams and patches of waste land are covered by a dry scrub jungle of shrubs of the order of *Euphorbiaceae*, *Butea* and other leguminous trees, and species of *Ficus*, *Schleichera*, *Wendlandia* and *Gmelina*.

Nilgai and wild hog are common in the low scrub jungle which Fauna. is met with on the alluvial islands and are very destructive to crops. Wolves and jackals carry off a considerable number of infants, snakes are very numerous, and crocodiles infest the large rivers.

The winter months are delightfully cool, but the dry heat Climate and temperature. is intense in May and June. The mean temperature varies from 62° in January to 89° in May, and the maximum from 78° in January to 100° in April and May, while the mean minimum ranges from 50° in January to 79° in June to August. Saran is one of the driest Districts in Bengal, the average annual rainfall being only 45 inches. The monsoon commences in June, when 6.9 inches fall, and the maximum monthly fall of 12.1 inches is reached in July. The average fall for August is 11 inches and for September 7.6 inches. Humidity ranges from 57 per cent. in April to 88 per cent. in August. The rainfall is capricious, and during the decade ending in 1901 it varied from 24 inches in 1896-97 (the lowest on record) to 65 inches in 1899-1900.

The District has always been liable to floods, which occur Floods when the waters of the smaller rivers are banked up by high floods in the great rivers into which they flow. An embankment constructed along the right bank of the Gandak for a distance of 99 miles now protects the north-east of the District, but the south-west and south are still exposed to inundation from the Gogra and Ganges.

At the dawn of history Saran formed the eastern limit of History. the ancient kingdom of the Kosalas, whose head-quarters were in Oudh and who were separated by the Gandak river from

the eastern kingdom of Mithilā. Very little is known of it, and the absence of any reference in the early Vedic literature and the paucity of Buddhist remains render it probable that it maintained its character as a vast jungle for a much longer period than either of the adjoining Districts of Muzaffarpur or Ohampāran. Indeed, the earliest authentic relic which has been found in Sāran is an inscribed copper-plate preserved in the village of Dighwā Dubauliā, about 34 miles north-east of Chāpra, which Dr. Rājendralāla Mitra declares to be a counterpart of a similar plate found by Colonel Stacy near Benares and which deals with the grant of a village by Rājā Bhogā Deva, paramount sovereign of Gwalior about 876 A. D. The mediæval history of the District is connected with the fortunes of the HATHWA family, whose head-quarters were at Husepur. Siwān and Mānjhi were fortified seats of turbulent Musalmān freebooters, while Mānjha, Parsā, Mirzāpur, Pāterha and Cherānd were during the same period the head-quarters of powerful Hindu chieftains.

The recorded population increased from 2,076,640 in 1872 to 2,295,207 in 1881 and to 2,465,007 in 1891, but fell to 2,409,509 in 1901. The increases of 10½ per cent. between 1872 and 1881 and of 7·4 per cent. during the next decade are partly attributed to improved enumeration. Several causes contributed towards the decrease of 2·2 per cent. during the last decade. The District already contained a larger population than it can support and the volume of emigration sensibly increased. The famine of 1897 told severely on the people, and though it caused no immediate mortality, reduced their vitality and lowered the birth-rate. Plague also assumed epidemic proportions during the winter of 1900-01.

The principal statistics of the census of 1901 are reproduced below:—

SUB-DIVISION.	Area in square miles.	NUMBER OF		Popula- tion.	Popula- tion per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Chāpra ...	1,048	2	2,179	972,719	928	-5·5	43,473
Gopālganj ...	788	1	2,115	633,017	805	+0·1	11,967
Siwān ...	638	1	1,528	501,741	787	+0·1	21,711
DISTRICT TOTAL	2,674	4	5,823	2,409,509	901	-2·2	67,151

The four towns are CHAPRA, SIWAN, REVELGANJ and MIRGANJ. The villages are small, and their average population is only 397 as compared with 602 in North Bihār as a whole. The density of

population is surpassed in only three of the Bengal Districts. It is very evenly distributed throughout the District, and only one thūna has less than 800 persons to the square mile. Sāran sends out a greater proportion of emigrants than any other District in Bengal outside Chotā Nāgpur, and in 1901 more than a tenth of the District-born population were enumerated away from home; about one-fifth of the absentees were found in contiguous Districts, but the remainder had gone further afield and were enumerated in large numbers in Rangpur, Calcutta and 24 Parganas. Owing to this emigration, the proportion of females to males (6 to 5) is the largest in Bengal. Infant marriage is much less common than in other parts of Bihār, and there has been a marked falling off during the last two decades in the proportion of married people, and also in the number of children brought into the world, which points to the growth of preventive checks on the growth of population. The language spoken is the Bhojpurī dialect of Hindi, but Muhammadans and Kāyasths generally speak Awadhī. Seven-eighths of the population are Hindus (2,124,641) and practically all the rest are Muhammadans (281,541).

The Aryan castes are strongly represented, as Sāran lay in their line of march eastwards. Brāhmins number 184,000, Rājputs 259,000, Bāhans 106,000, Kāyasths 49,000, and Ahīrs 290,000, more than a third of the population belonging to these five castes. These excellent husbandmen, the Koiris and Kurmis, are numerous as are also Chamārs (leather dressers), Kāndus (grain parchers), Nunias (saltpetre manufacturers), Dośādhis, and the common Bihār functional castes. Among the Muhammadan castes 18,500 Pathāns and 6,000 Saiyids are probably descendants of foreigners, but the ancestors of 97,000 Jolāhās and 63,000 Shaikhs were probably local converts to Islam. Of every 100 persons 81 are agriculturists, 9 are engaged in industry, 1 belongs to the professional classes, 4 are general labourers, and the remainder follow other occupations. The proportion of agriculturists is the largest in Bihār.

The German Evangelical Lutheran Mission has been at work at Chāpra since 1810, but less than 500 persons have been baptised, and most of these were probably unclaimed children or orphans. A Roman Catholic Mission has recently been started at Chāpra and a branch of the "Regions Beyond" Missionary Union at Siwān. The number of native Christians in 1901 was 78.

The hard clay in the low swamps (*chaus*) produces only a somewhat precarious crop of winter rice, and being dependant on the rainfall, is the first to suffer from drought. On the light sandy uplands an autumn rice crop is obtained, which is generally followed by a spring crop of poppy, indigo, barley, wheat, sugarcane,

pulses or oilseeds. The most fertile soil is a rich loam known as *kachh*, and the finest yield is obtained from the lands round the village sites, which are highly manured, and are reserved for such lucrative crops as opium, wheat, vegetables and condiments. A seasonable rainfall is of special importance in a District where the normal precipitation is small, and where only 15 per cent. of the cultivated area is protected by irrigation. The crucial period when rain is urgently needed is the last fortnight of September, and during the *hathiya* asterism at the beginning of October. A drought during this period not only ruins the winter rice, but deprives the soil of the moisture necessary for the subsequent spring crops.

The salient agricultural statistics for 1903-04 are reproduced below, areas being in square miles:—

Chief
agricul-
tural
statistics
and
principal
crops.

SUB-DIVISION.				Total.	Cultivated.	Culturable waste.
Chāpra	...	...	...	1,048	780	110
Gopālganj	...	...	...	788	622	83
Siwān	...	...	...	688	661	91
TOTAL				2,674	2,063	259

Rice is the most important crop and covers an area of 516 square miles, or a quarter of the cultivated area; 16 per cent. of it is harvested in the autumn and the remainder in the winter. Barley and maize cover 19 and 15 per cent. respectively of the cultivated area. *Khesari* pulse is sown extensively as a catch-crop in winter rice lands and may be called the poor man's food. The most extensively grown non-food crops are oilseeds, linseed occupying 124 square miles, and rape and mustard 17 square miles. Sugar is being largely substituted for indigo and occupies 3 per cent. of the cultivated area. Indigo in 1903-04 covered only 19,300 acres, or less than half the area sown 5 years before. Sāran is the premier opium District in Bengal, and the outturn in the same year was 282 tons.

Improve-
ments in
agricul-
tural
practice.

Cultivation has long ago reached its utmost limit, and there is no room for expansion. Little advantage is taken of Government loans, and the only considerable advances made were in the famine year 1897, when 2.31 lakhs were lent under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.

Cattle,

The cattle are generally poor; the best come from north Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga and from the United Provinces. Pasture is insufficient, and in the cold weather great herds are grazed in Champāran. The Hathwa Rāj has recently established a cattle breeding farm at Sripur. Most of the horses and ponies

employed elsewhere, who make large remittances for the support of their families. The principal imports are rice, paddy and other food grains from Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga and Bhāgalpur, cotton piece-goods, salt and kerosene oil from Calcutta and coal from Burdwan and Chota Nāgpur. The exports are opium, sugar, indigo, salpetre, shellac, molasses, linseed, mustard seed, gram, pulses and other food grains. Most of the exports go to Calcutta, but the sugar finds a market in the United Provinces. The bulk of the traffic now goes by railway, and the principal marts are CHAPRA, REVELGANJ, SIWAN, MAHARAJGANJ, MIRGANJ, Dighwara, SONPUR and Mairwā.

Railways
and roads.

The main line of the Bengal and North-Western Railway traverses the District from Sonpur at the south-east corner to Mairwā on the western boundary. A branch line connects Chāpra *via* Revelganj with Mānjlī, where the Gogra is crossed by a steam ferry. A fine bridge spans the Gandak between Sonpur in Sāran and Hājipur in Muzaffarpur, and effects a junction with the Tirhut State Railway system, now worked by the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company, and *via* Katihār with the northern section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway. The Bengal and North-Western Railway is connected with the East Indian Railway by a steam-ferry from Pabla Ghāt, near Sonpur, to Digha Ghāt on the opposite bank. The chief lines of road run from north to south, originally connecting the Gandak with the Gogra (and now with the railway), and following the old trade routes from Nepal through Champāran and Muzaffarpur. From Chāpra important roads lead to Kewah Ghāt, Sattar Ghāt and Salimpur Ghāt, all on the Gandak. Other roads also converge on these points, such as the road from Dorandā railway station to Mahārājanj, and thence northwards to Barauli and Salimpur Ghāt. The road from Siwān to Mirganj and thence to Gopālganj and through Bāterdah to the Champāran border is also of importance. In 1903-04 the District contained 1,219 miles of roads maintained by the District board, of which 137 were metalled and 1,082 unmetalled, besides 1,428 miles of village tracks.

Water
communi-
cations.

The India General Steam Navigation Company has a daily steamer service on the Ganges and Gogra from Digha Ghāt in the Patna District, nearly opposite Sonpur, to Ajodhya in Oudh. These steamers connect at Digha Ghāt with the Goalundo line and are often crowded with coolies on their way going to or returning from Eastern Bengal. Numerous important ferries cross the Ganges, Gandak and Gogra rivers.

Famine.

Sāran is less liable to famine than the neighbouring Districts, as it is protected both by the number and variety of its crops, and by the distribution of its harvests throughout the year. Nevertheless famine or scarcity has occurred on several occasions, notably

in 1769, 1783, 1866, 1874 and 1897. Little is known of the first two calamities. In 1866, the year of the Orissa famine, the winter rice failed and the spring crops were extremely poor; the relief afforded was inadequate, and over 8,000 persons died of starvation and disease. In 1874 famine was caused by the failure of nine-tenths of the winter rice crop. Relief on this occasion was given on an extravagant scale, and no deaths occurred from starvation; the number on relief works exceeded a quarter of a million in June 1874. No less than 40,000 tons of grain were imported by Government, and the expenditure was 24 lakhs. In 1896 the rainfall was very deficient, amounting to only 23 inches, and the autumn crop yielded less than half and the winter rice only one-sixteenth of the normal outturn. In spite of this, the famine was much less severe than in the neighbouring Districts, and the maximum number on relief works was 24,000 in May 1897. The cost of relief was 9 lakhs.

For general administrative purposes the District is divided into District 3 sub-divisions, with head-quarters at CHAPRA, SIWAN and sub-divisions and staff. GOPALGANJ. The staff at head-quarters consists of the Magistrate-Collector, an Assistant Magistrate and 5 Deputy Magistrates, besides officers employed specially on partition and excise work; each of the outlying sub-divisions is in charge of a sub-divisional officer assisted by a sub-deputy collector.

Subordinate to the District Judge are 2 Sub-Judges and 4 Munsifs at Chapra, one Munsif at Siwan and another at Gopalganj. Civil and criminal justice. The Sub-Judges hear appeals from the Champaran civil courts also. Since the completion of the survey and record-of-rights the number of rent suits has greatly increased. Criminal justice is administered by the Sessions Judge, an Assistant Sessions Judge, the District Magistrate and the above mentioned stipendiary magistrates. Burglary and petty theft are common, and riots are frequent, but there is very little heinous crime.

In Todar Mal's settlement of 1582 Saran was assessed at 4 lakhs, the area measured being 415 square miles. In 1685 the revenue was raised to 8 lakhs, and in 1750 to 9½ lakhs, of which half a lakh was remitted. In 1773, eight years after the British assumed the financial administration, the revenue was 9.36 lakhs, and in 1793 the permanent settlement was concluded for 10.27 lakhs. A number of estates held free of revenue under invalid titles has since been resumed, and the demand in 1903-04 was 12.63 lakhs payable by 5,506 estates. Almost the entire District is permanently settled, but 78 estates paying Rs. 15,000 are temporarily settled and 28 estates with a revenue of Rs. 12,000 are managed direct by Government. It is noteworthy that whereas the allowance fixed for the zamindars at the permanent settlement was one-tenth of the assets, the Saran landlords now retain no less than 78 per cent. As the result

of a very careful calculation by the Settlement Officer, the gross annual produce of the soil has been valued at 425 lakhs, and of this sum the revenue represents less than 3 and the rental 12 per cent. The District was surveyed and a record-of-rights was prepared between 1893 and 1901. The average area cultivated by a family is estimated at 3·8 acres. Cash rents are almost universal, only 4 per cent. of the holdings of settled and occupancy ryots paying produce rents. The average rates of rent per acre vary for the different classes of ryots: those holding at fixed rates pay Rs. 3-4-9, settled or occupancy ryots Rs. 4-5-4, non-occupancy ryots Rs. 5-0-6 and under-ryots Rs. 5-2-8. Lower rents rule in the north than in the south, where the pressure of population is greatest and cultivation more advanced. Of the occupied area 90 per cent. is held by ryots, and practically all of them have a right of occupancy, only 15,000 acres being held by non-occupancy ryots.

The following table shows the collections of land revenue and of total revenue, under the principal heads, in thousands of rupees:—

	1880-81.	1890-01.	1900-01.	1903-01.
Land revenue	12,55	12,49	12,70	12,57
Total revenue	20,22	22,21	23,17	23,21

Local and municipal government. Outside the municipalities of CHAPRA, SIWAN and RIVELGANJ local affairs are managed by the District board with subordinate local boards at Siwān and Gopālganj. As many as 19 Europeans, principally indigo planters, have seats upon the board. In 1903-04 its income was Rs. 2,44,000, of which Rs. 1,54,000 was derived from rates, and the expenditure was Rs. 2,43,000, including Rs. 1,27,000 spent on civil works and Rs. 42,000 on education. The income is derived mainly from the road cess.

Police and jails. The District contains 10 police stations and 16 out-posts, and the force at the disposal of the District Superintendent of Police in 1903 numbered 4 inspectors, 40 sub-inspectors, 37 head-constables and 508 constables; the rural police consisted of 340 *daffadars* and 3,971 *chaukidars*. An inspector with a special guard is in charge of the settlements of the criminal tribe known as the Magahiya Doms, who in 1901 numbered 1,048. The District jail at Chapra has accommodation for 305 prisoners, and subsidiary jails at the other sub-divisions for 50.

Education. Education is backward, and only 3·5 per cent. of the population (7·3 males and 0·2 females) were literate in 1901. The number of pupils under instruction rose from about 18,000 in 1883-84 to 24,088 in 1892-93 and 23,633 in 1900-01, while 23,643 boys and

1,326 girls were at school in 1903-04, being respectively 16·9 and 0·69 per cent. of the children of school-going age. The number of educational institutions, public and private, in that year was 949, including 20 secondary schools, 687 primary schools and 242 other special schools. The expenditure on education was Rs. 1,19,000, of which Rs. 12,000 was derived from Provincial funds, Rs. 41,000 from District funds, Rs. 3,500 from municipal funds and Rs. 40,000 from fees. The schools include 12 night schools for *bona fide* agriculturists and day-labourers, and 3 schools for Doms, Chamars and other depressed castes.

In 1903 the District contained 12 dispensaries, of which 4 had accommodation for 135 in-door patients; the cases of 145,000 out-patients and 1,356 in-patients were treated and 6,645 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 1,54,000, of which Rs. 1,000 was met by Government contributions, Rs. 6,000 each from local and from municipal funds and Rs. 1,37,000 from subscriptions; these figures include a sum of Rs. 1,33,000 subscribed for the Hathwā Victoria Hospital, of which Rs. 1,24,000 was spent on the buildings. Medical.

Vaccination is compulsory only in the municipal towns, outside which it is backward. In 1903-04 the number of persons successfully vaccinated was 54,000, representing 23·2 per thousand of the population.

[Sir W. W. Hunter, *Statistical Account of Bengal*, vol. xi, 1877; J. H. Kerr, *Settlement Report*, Calcutta, 1904.]

Chāpra Sub-division—Head-quarters sub-division of the Saran District, Bengal, occupying its south-east extremity and lying between 25° 39' and 26° 14' N., and 84° 23' and 85° 12' E., with an area of 1,048 square miles. The sub-division is a fertile tract of rich alluvial soil, enclosed by the Gogra and Gandak rivers. Its population was 972,718 in 1901, as compared with 1,029,639 in 1891; the decrease being largely due to severe epidemics of plague in 1900 and 1901. The density of population is 928 to the square mile. There are 2 towns, CHAPRA, the head-quarters (46,901), and REVELGANJ (9,765), and 2,179 villages. SONPUR, at the confluence of the Ganges and Gandak, is an important railway centre and the scene of a great annual fair and bathing festival.

Gopālganj Sub-division.—Northern sub-division of Saran District, Bengal, lying between 26° 12' and 26° 39' N., and 83° 54' and 84° 55' E., with an area of 788 square miles. The sub-division consists of a level alluvial plain bounded on the east by the river Gandak. Its population was 635,047 in 1901 as compared with 634,630 in 1891. This is the least crowded part of the District and supports only 806 persons to the square mile. There is one town, MIRGANJ, with 9,698 inhabitants, and 2,148 villages; the head-quarters are at GOPALGANJ.

Siwān Sub-division.—Central sub-division of the Sāran District, Bengal, lying between $25^{\circ} 56'$ and $26^{\circ} 22' N.$, and $84^{\circ} 0'$ and $84^{\circ} 47' E.$, with an area of 838 square miles. The sub-division is an alluvial tract intersected by numerous rivers and water-channels. Its population was 801,744 in 1901 as compared with 800,788 in 1891. This is the most densely populated part of the District, and supports 957 persons to the square mile. There is one town, Siwān, the head-quarters (population 15,756), and 1,528 villages.

Hathwā Rāj.—Estate, situated for the most part in a compact block in the north-west of the Sāran District, Bengal, but also comprising property in the Champāran, Muzaffarpur, Shāhābād, Patna and Darjeeling Districts of Bengal, and in Gorakhpur in the United Provinces. It has an area of 561 square miles, of which 491 square miles are cultivated. The population in 1901 was 534,905. The rent roll (including cesses) amounted in 1903-04 to 11.51 lakhs, and the land revenue and cesses to 2.55 lakhs.

The Hathwā Rāj family is regarded as one of the oldest of the aristocratic houses in Bihār and is said to have been settled in Sāran for more than a hundred generations. The family is of the caste of Gautama Bābhans or Bhuinhār, to which the Mahārājās of Benares, Bettiah, and Tekārī belong. The authentic history of Rāj Husepur or Hathwā commences with the time of Mahārāja Fateh Sāhi. When the East India Company obtained the *diwāni* of Bengal, Bihār and Orissa in 1765, Fateh Sāhi not only refused to pay revenue but resisted the Company's troops who were sent against him, and was with difficulty expelled from Husepur. He retired to a large tract of forest between Gorakhpur and Sāran, whence he frequently invaded the British territories, and gave constant trouble until 1775. For some years the estate remained under the direct management of Government, but in 1791 Lord Cornwallis restored it to Chhatardhārī Sāhi, a grand-nephew of Fateh Sāhi. The title of "Mahārāja Bahādūr" was conferred on him in 1837, Fateh Sāhi having died in the interim. During the Mutiny the Mahārāja displayed conspicuous loyalty and was rewarded by the gift of some confiscated villages in Shāhābād District which yielded a gross rental of Rs. 20,000 per annum. Mahārāja Chhatardhārī Sāhi Bahādūr died in 1858 and was succeeded by his great grandson, Mahārāja Rajendra Pratap Sāhi, who held the estate until his death in 1896, when the Court of Wards took possession on behalf of his minor son. In 1868 the Privy Council held that the estate is an impartible Rāj descending to the eldest son. At Hathwā, 12 miles north of Siwān, stands the Mahārāja's palace, a splendid modern building with one of the most magnificent *darbār* halls in India. The Mahārānī has recently built a handsome hospital, named the "Victoria

Hospital." A model agricultural and cattle-breeding farm has been opened at Sripur.

Chāpra Town.—Head-quarters of Saran District, Bengal, situated in $25^{\circ} 47' N.$ and $81^{\circ} 44' E.$ on the north or left bank of the river Gogra, close to its junction with the Ganges. In 1901 the population was 45,001, or nearly 12,000 less than in 1891, the decrease being mainly due to a temporary exodus of the population which took place in consequence of an outbreak of plague just before the census. Of the population 31,862 are Hindus and 10,934 Musalmāns. The Gogra formerly flowed close by the town, but it has shifted its course a mile to the south; the river inundated the town in 1871 and again in 1890.

At the end of the 18th century the French, Dutch, Portuguese and English had factories at Chāpra, but a severe blow was dealt to the commercial prosperity of the place when it was deserted, first by the Ganges and later by the Gogra; the railway however now affords new facilities for trade. The principal imports are rice, kerosene oil, gunny bags, Indian and European cotton piece-goods and twist and salt, and the exports saltpetre, opium, linseed, *gur* (molasses) and shellac. Chāpra is the head-quarters of a troop of the Bihar Light Horse and of a detachment of the Bengal and North-Western Railway Volunteers.

The town has in recent years suffered severely from plague, which made its first appearance in March 1900. It disappeared at the end of May, but again broke out in epidemic form later in the year, and during the months of October 1900 to March 1901 1,984 deaths were reported. A serious panic ensued, trade was dislocated, and thousands of people left the town. In 1902 a less serious outbreak occurred, and again during the winter of 1902-03 there was another very severe epidemic, 2,138 deaths being recorded between November and February.

Chāpra was constituted a municipality in 1851. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 44,000, and the expenditure Rs. 41,000. In 1903-04 its income was Rs. 59,000, including Rs. 30,000 derived from a tax on houses and lands, and the expenditure was Rs. 50,000. The main drains are flushed and some of the public tanks filled by the flood water of the Gogra, which is admitted through the Sāhibganj shire. A *fine sarai* is under the management of the municipal commissioners, who also own two municipal markets and a dispensary. The District jail has accommodation for 305 prisoners, and a large building is occupied by the Government English school; there are also 2 private high schools. Chāpra is the head-quarters of the German Evangelical Lutheran Mission, and a Roman Catholic mission has recently been started.

Gopālganj Village.—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name in the Saran District, Bengal, situated in $26^{\circ} 28' N.$

and $84^{\circ} 27'$ E. Population (1901) 1,614. The station contains the usual public offices; the sub-jail has accommodation for 18 prisoners.

Mahārājganj.—Village in the Siwān sub-division of Sāran District, Bengal, situated in $26^{\circ} 7'$ N. and $84^{\circ} 30'$ E. Population (1901) 3,300. It is an important trade centre with a large export of grain, sugar and spices and an import of salt and English piece-goods.

Mirganj.—Town in the Gopālganj sub-division of Sāran District, Bengal, situated in $26^{\circ} 25'$ N. and $84^{\circ} 20'$ E. Population (1901) 9,698. It is a large trading centre.

Revelganj (or Godnā).—Town in the head-quarters sub-division of the Sāran District, Bengal, situated in $25^{\circ} 47'$ N. and $84^{\circ} 39'$ E. on the left bank of the Gogṛa river. Population (1901) 9,765. The town is named after Mr. Revell, who was Collector of Government Customs in 1788. It was formerly a very important trade centre, but the railway has robbed it of much of its business. Revelganj was constituted a municipality in 1876. The average income and expenditure for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 9,000 each. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 11,000, derived mainly from tolls and a tax on houses and lands, and the expenditure was Rs. 8,000.

Siwān Town (or Aliganj Sērān).—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name in the Sāran District, Bengal, situated in $26^{\circ} 13'$ N. and $84^{\circ} 21'$ E. Population (1901) 15,756. Superior pottery is manufactured here. Siwān was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 9,600, and the expenditure Rs. 8,500. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 11,000, mainly derived from a tax on persons (or property tax), and the expenditure amounted to the same sum. The town contains the usual public offices; the sub-jail has accommodation for 32 prisoners.

Sonpur.—Village in the head-quarters sub-division of Sāran District, Bengal, situated in $25^{\circ} 42'$ N. and $85^{\circ} 12'$ E. on the right bank of the Gandak, close to its confluence with the Ganges. Population (1901) 3,355. It is an important station on the Bengal and North-Western Railway, which crosses the Gandak by a fine bridge connecting Sonpur with Hajipur on the left bank. There are railway workshops which employ some 1,000 hands daily. The Sonpur fair, or Harihar Chatṭar *mela*, is held at the confluence of the Gandak and Ganges at the November full-moon, and is probably one of the very oldest fairs in India. It was at Sonpur that Vishnu is reputed to have rescued the elephant from the jaws of the alligator, and it was here that Rāma, when on his way to Janakpur to win Sita, built a temple to Harihar Nāth Mahādeo, which is still largely frequented by pilgrims. The fair lasts for a fortnight, but is at its height for

2 days before and after the full moon, when Hindus bathe in Ganges and thus acquire exceptional merit. Immense numbers assemble, and goods and animals, especially elephants, horses and cattle, are exposed for sale. A cattle show is held at the fair, which is the largest elephant market in India. In days gone by the Sonpur race meeting was one of the most famous on this side of India, but many causes have combined to rob the meeting of its former glories. It is still, however, one of the pleasantest picnic gatherings in India for Europeans, who meet and down in camp under the shade of a magnificent mango grove and amuse themselves with races, dances, polo, tennis and visits to the fair, which presents Indian life under many interesting aspects.

Champāran (*Champak-aranya*, the forest of *champak* or *Mitchelia* *chamapa*).—District of the Patna Division, Bengal, occupying the north-west corner of Bihār, lying between 26° 16' and 27° 31' N., and 83° 56' and 85° 18' E., with an area of 3,531 square miles. The District extends along the left bank of the GANDAK for 100 miles, having a breadth of 20 miles at the northern, and 40 miles at the southern, extremity. The northern boundary marches with Nepāl; on the west the Gandak separates it from the Gorakhpur District in the United Provinces, and from the Bengal District of Sāran; while on the east and south it is bounded by Muzaffarpur, from which it is divided on the east by the Bagmati river. The Nepāl frontier, where not naturally formed by rivers, is marked by ditches and masonry pillars, and for a considerable distance runs along the crest of the Someswar range. At one point the District crosses the Gandak and includes a large tract of alluvial land which the river has thrown up on its right bank.

Bound-
aries.
configura-
tion, and
hill and
river
systems.

Outliers of the Himālayas extend for 15 miles into the alluvial plain which occupies the rest of the District. The Someswar range, which culminates in a hill of the same name 2,884 feet above sea-level, is generally clothed with fine trees, though in places it rises in bare and inaccessible crags. At its eastern extremity the Kudi river pierces it and forms the pass leading into Deoghāt in Nepāl, through which a British force successfully marched in 1815. The ascent of Someswar hill lies up the bed of the Juri Pāni river amid romantic scenery. The summit overlooks the Mauri valley in Nepāl, and commands an unequalled view of Everest, and of the great snow peaks of Dhaulāgiri, Gosainsthān and Umapūrnā. A bungalow has been built near the top of the hill. The other principal passes are the Someswar, Kāpan, and Harhā. South of the Someswar range the Dūn hills stretch across the District. To the north extend forests, in which the finest timber has long been cut, and great expanses of well-watered grass prairie, which afford pasturage to enormous herds of cattle.

The District is divided by the Burhi (old) Gandak into two tracts of different characteristics. To the north is old alluvium, where the soil is mainly hard clay suitable for winter rice. The southern tract is recent alluvium, deposited during the oscillations of the Gandak, a lighter soil which grows millets, pulses, cereals and oilseeds. The Burhi Gandak, variously known as the Harhā, the Sikrāna, and the Masān, rises in the western extremity of the Someswar range, and is navigable as far as Sagauli by boats of 7 to 15 tons burden, though it is fordable during the dry weather. Like the Gandak, the Burhi Gandak becomes a torrent in the rains. The Bāghmati is navigable by boats of 15 to 18 tons burden, and has a very rapid current. In the rains it rises rapidly and overflows its banks, sometimes causing great devastation. This river has often changed its course, and the soil is very light and friable along its banks. Through the centre of the District runs a chain of 43 lakes, which evidently marks an old bed of the Great Gandak.

Geology.

The surface is for the most part covered by alluvium, but the Someswar and Dūn hills possess the characteristic features of the lower Himalayan slopes. They consist of gneiss of the well foliated type, passing into mica schist, while submetamorphic or transition rocks, and sandstones, conglomerates and clays, referable to the upper tertiary period, are largely represented.

Botany.

The belt of forest along the northern border of the District contains *sāl* (*Shorea robusta*), *sisā* (*Dalbergia sissoo*) and *tān* (*Cedrela toona*); the cotton tree (*Bombax malabaricum*), *kusum* (*Schleichera trijuga*) and *khair* (*Acacia catechu*) are also common. Bamboos thrive in the moist tarai tract; *sabai* grass (*Ischemum angustifolium*) and the *narkat* reed (*Amphidromus falcata*) are also valuable products, and extensive thickets of tamarisk line the Gandak river. In the south cultivation is closer, and the crops leave room for little besides weeds, grasses and sedges, chiefly species of *Panicum* and *Cyperus*, though on patches of waste land thickets of *sisā* very rapidly appear. The sluggish streams and lakes are filled with water weeds, the sides being often fringed by reedy grasses, bulrushes and tamarisk. Near villages, small shrubberies may be found containing mango, *sisā*, *Eugenia jambolana*, various species of *Ficus*, an occasional tamarind, and a few other semi-spontaneous and more or less useful species. Both the palmyra (*Borassus flabelliformis*) and date-palm (*Phoenix sylvestris*) occur planted and at times self-sown, but neither in great abundance.

Fauna.

Tigers and leopards are found in the jungle to the extreme north, and bears are occasionally met with among the lower hill ranges in the same tract. *Nilgai* (*Boelaphus tragocamelus*) are fairly distributed over the whole District, while *sāmbār* (*Cervus unicolor*), spotted deer (*Cervus azis*), barking deer (*Cervulus muntjac*) and antelope (*Antelope cervicapra*) are found in the hills

and jungle to the north, and hog deer (*Cervus porcinus*) in the *diāras* of the Gandak. Wild hog are common throughout the District.

The mean temperature for the year is 76°; the mean maximum rises to 97° in April and May, and the mean minimum drops to 47° in December and January. The mean humidity for the year is 83 per cent., and ranges from 68 in April to 92 per cent. in January. Rainfall is heavy in the submontane tract. The average annual fall is 55 inches, including 2·7 inches in May, 10·2 in June, 13·8 in July, 13·2 in August, 9·5 in September, and 3·3 in October; less than one inch falls in each of the other months. Owing to the progress made in clearing the forests, and the extension of cultivation in the north of the District, the rainfall is decreasing, while the extremes of temperature are becoming more marked, and the mean temperature is rising.

Climate
and tem-
perature.

The District, which was formerly subject to destructive floods from the Gandak and Bāghmati, has been protected from the former river by a Government embankment; only a small area near the Burhi Gandak and Bāghmati rivers is now liable to inundation.

Floods.

Local traditions, archaeological remains, and the ruins of old-world cities point to a prehistoric past. Champāran was, in early Hindu times, a dense primeval forest, in whose solitudes Brāhman hermits studied the *Aranyakas*, which, as their name implies, were to be read in sylvan retreats. Thus the sage Vālmiki, in whose hermitage Sita is said to have taken refuge, is alleged to have resided near the village of Sangrāmpur, so named from the famous fight which took place there between Rāma and his sons, Lava and Kusa, and the names of the *tappas* or revenue sub-divisions are, with few exceptions, connected with Hindu sages. The District was included in the kingdom of Mithilā, which may have been a great seat of Sanskrit learning as early as 1000 B.C. To this period General Cunningham assigns the three rows of huge conical mounds at LAURIYA NĀNDANGARH, and there are interesting ruins at ARARAJ and KESARIYA, while a fine specimen of an Asoka pillar stands at Lauriyā, and another Asoka pillar lies prone at Pipariyā. After the decay of Buddhism a powerful Hindu dynasty seems to have ruled from 1097 to 1322, at Simraon, in Nepal, where extensive remains still exist. It was founded by Nānya Deva, who was followed by six of his line; the last was conquered by Hari Singh Deo, who had been driven out of Ajodhya by the Muhammadans. His dynasty preserved its independence for more than a century later than South Bihār, which was conquered by Muhammad-i-Bakhtiyār Khiljī in 1197.

History.
and
archaeo-
logy.

In 1765 the District passed, with the rest of Bengal, under the administration of the East India Company. It was treated

as part of the neighbouring District of Sāran until 1860. In recent times the only event of importance was the Mutiny of the small garrison at SAGAULI in 1857.

The recorded population of the present area increased from 1,440,815 in 1872 to 1,721,608 in 1881 and to 1,859,465 in 1891, but fell to 1,790,463 in 1901. The first 7 years of the last decade were lean years, and they culminated in the famine of 1897; no deaths occurred from starvation, but the fecundity of the people was diminished. Outbreaks of cholera were frequent during the decade, and fever was also very prevalent. Immigration received a severe check, and not only did new settlers cease to arrive, but many of the old immigrants returned to their homes. The climate of Champāran is the worst in Bihār, especially in the submontane tract of the Bagahā and Shikārpur thānas. In the whole District malarial fevers and cholera are the principal diseases. Goitre is prevalent in the neighbourhood of the Chanchawat and Dhanauti rivers; and the proportion of deaf-mutes (2·75 per mille among males) exceeds that of any other Bengal District.

The principal statistics of the census of 1901 are reproduced below:—

SUB-DIVISION.	Area in square miles.	NUMBER OF		Population.	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Motihāri	1,518	1	1,304	1,040,639	686	-5·4	26,515
Bettiah	2,018	1	1,310	740,864	373	-1·3	13,951
DISTRICT TOTAL	3,537	2	2,623	1,790,463	507	-3·7	40,466

The population is sparse in comparison with the neighbouring Districts, the density being only 507 persons to the square mile as compared with 901 in Sāran and 908 in Muzaffarpur. The most thickly populated thānas are Madhuban (810), Dhāka (771) and Adāpur (749) in the east of the District, where the conditions are similar to those in Muzaffarpur, but in the north-western thānas of Shikārpur and Bagahā, where cultivation is yet undeveloped and malaria is very prevalent, there are only 270 and 301 persons respectively to the square mile. The population is almost entirely rural, the only towns being BETTIAH (24,696) and MOTIHARI, the head-quarters. Immigration to the half-reclaimed country in the north of the District formerly took place on a large scale from Gorakhpur, Sāran and Muzaffarpur, and from Nepāl. The language spoken is the Bhojpuri dialect of Bihāri, but Muhammadans and Kayasths mostly talk Awadhi, and the Thārus have a dialect of their own, which is a mixture of Maithili and

Bhojpur known as Madesi. The character officially and generally used is Kaithi. Hindus number 1,523,949, or 85 per cent. of the population, and Muhammadans 264,086 or nearly 15 per cent.; the latter are considerably more numerous in Champāran than in any other Bihār District except Purnea.

The most numerous castes are Ahirs or herdsmen (189,000) and Chamārs or leather-dressers (125,000). There are 85,000 Brāhmins, many of them imported by the Bettiah Rāj, 79,000 Rājputs and 52,000 Bābhans. Koiris (84,000) and Kurmis (99,000) are the best cultivators, Kāyasths (29,000) are the literary caste, and Nuniās (55,000), the hereditary manufacturers of saltpetre, make the best labourers. Among the aboriginal population are included the Thārus (27,000), who are almost entirely confined to the two frontier thānas of Shikārpur and Bagahā. These people live in scattered settlements in the malarious *tarai* along the foot of the Himālayas, from the Kosi river in Purnea almost as far as the Ganges. Originally of nomadic habits, they appear to have settled down as honest and industrious cultivators, utilizing the water of the hill streams to irrigate their scanty patches of rice cultivation. Their religion is a veneer of Hinduism over Animism. A gipsy branch of the Magahiya sub-caste of Doms has acquired an evil reputation in Champāran, as they are inveterate thieves and house-breakers, using knives and clubs to defend themselves when interfered with. Since 1882 attempts have been made to reclaim them, and they have been collected in two settlements where they have been provided with land for cultivation. Among the Muhammadans, the Jolāhās (74,000) and Shaikhs (72,000) are the most numerous communities. Of 205 Europeans most are engaged in the indigo industry. Of the population 80 per cent. are dependant upon agriculture, and 6 per cent. on industrial avocations; 8 per cent. are classed as general labourers, while less than one per cent. are engaged in commerce.

Christians number 2,417, including 2,180 native converts; Christian they are nearly all Roman Catholics and are to be found in the Bettiah sub-division, where two Roman Catholic missions are at work, one of them being a lineal descendant of the old Lhāsa mission, which, when ejected from Tibet, retreated first to Nepāl and afterwards to this District. A Protestant mission, styled "The Regions Beyond Mission", has been opened at Motihāri.

North of the Burhi Gandak hard clay soils, locally called *bāngar*, predominate; these are particularly suitable for rice cultivation, but they require irrigation; where autumn rice is grown, it is followed by spring crops of oilseeds and pulses, but if winter rice is grown, there is no second crop. In some parts of this northern tract a thin loam is also found, which will not grow rice, but bears crops of maize, barley, gram, pulses and oilseeds, and in

Their
castes and
occupa-
tion.

Missions.

General
agricul-
tural
conditions.

others, a sandy soil fit only for maize and inferior millets. South of the Burhi Gandak uplands predominate, except in thānas Kesariyā and Gobindganj, where rice is grown in the marshes. The soil in the uplands is generally a light loam, and bears millets, pulses, wheat and barley, oilseeds and indigo.

The salient agricultural statistics for 1903-04 are reproduced below, areas being in square miles:—

Chief agricultural statistics and principal crops.

SUB-DIVISION.			Total.	Cultivated.	Culturable waste.	Irrigated.
Motihāri	...	...	1,518	1,184	180	2
Bettiah	...	...	2,013	1,041	416	...
TOTAL			3,531	2,225	596	2

A conspicuous feature is the large area of culturable waste land, chiefly in the two north-western thānas of Bagahā and Shikārpur; its reclamation is proceeding rapidly, in spite of the prevalence of malaria, which saps the energy of the cultivators.

Owing to the comparatively sparse population, food crops occupy only 83 per cent. of the cultivated area. Rice is more generally grown than in Muzaffarpur or Sāran, and extends over more than half the cultivated area of the District; two-thirds of this area is occupied by the winter crop, and the rest by early rice. The extensive cultivation of the latter is remarkable, and in Adāpur it actually exceeds the area under winter rice. Barley is the next food-grain of importance, and it is followed by maize, wheat and pulses. The non-food crops are indigo, oilseeds, thatching grass, poppy and sugarcane. Indigo is losing ground owing to the competition of the synthetic dye. As in other parts of Bihār, poppy is cultivated under a system of Government advances. The total area in 1903-04 was about 50,000 acres and the outturn 300 tons. Cowdung and indigo refuse are used as manure for special crops, such as sugarcane, tobacco, poppy and indigo. Little advantage has been taken of the Land Improvements Act, but in the famine of 1897 a sum of 2·2 lakhs was advanced under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.

Cattle.

There is abundance of pasture in Bagahā and Shikārpur, which attracts great herds of cattle from the southern thānas and from adjoining Districts. Each family owns on the average three head of cattle. Goats are also numerous, and there are a few sheep, horses and ponies, mules and donkeys. Large cattle fairs are annually held at Madhuban and Bettiah.

Irrigation.

Only 2 per cent. of the cultivated area is irrigated. The hill streams in the north afford facilities for irrigation; the water is carried along channels dug parallel with their beds, and

in dry years weirs are thrown across them. A channel was dug in the famine of 1897 along which the water of the Masān stream is conducted for 20 miles; it is managed by the District officials. The Madhuban Canal, which takes off from a permanent dam in the river Tiar, is a protective canal 6·2 miles in length; it was constructed by the Madhuban zamindār and has been bought by Government, but it is not yet fully utilized. The TRIBENI CANAL is under construction, and a small canal is also being made to carry the water of the Lālbeghiā river to the south of Dhāka thāna. In years of drought these streams are often dammed by the Nepalese before they reach the District. In the south irrigation wells are occasionally dug, but there is a prejudice against them, as it is supposed that loam soils once irrigated lose the capacity to retain moisture.

Gold is sometimes washed in minute quantities from the Minerals. Gandak river and from the Pānohnād, Harhā, Bhabsa and Sonāha hill streams in the north of the District. Beds of *kankar*, or nodular limestone, are found in workable quantities at Ararāj, and near Lauriyā, and along the banks of the Harhā river in Bagahā thāna; it is used for road metal and for burning into lime. Saliferous earth is found in all parts of the District, and a special caste, the Nuniās, earn a scanty livelihood by extracting saltpetre. Sangrāmpur is the head-quarters of the industry. The outturn in 1903-04 was 30,000 maunds.

The indigenous manufactures are confined to the weaving of Arts and coarse cotton cloth, blankets and rugs, and pottery work. Sugar- refining, which was introduced from the neighbouring District of Gorakhpur, chiefly flourishes in the Bottiah sub-division; it has recently been started at Sirāha factory on a large scale with modern machinery. Indigo is the most important manufacture in the District. Colonel Hickey, the pioneer of indigo cultivation in Champāran, built a factory at Bān in 1813. The Itājpur and Tarkoliā concerns were started by Messrs. Moran and Company, and in 1845 Colonel Taylor built Sirāha. Sugar, however, was the prominent industry until about 1850. A peculiar feature of the indigo industry in Champāran is the permanent hold which the planters have on the land. In 1876 the Bottiah Rāj was deeply involved in debt, and a sterling loan of nearly 95 lakhs was floated on the security of permanent leases of villages which were granted by the estate to indigo planters. The result is that, although a bare 6 per cent. of the cultivated area is actually sown with indigo, the planters are in the position of landlords of very nearly half the District. There are 20 head factories with 48 out-works. Indigo is either cultivated by the planter through his servants under the *strat* or home-farm system, or else by tenants under what is known as the *āsamīcār* system (*āsamī* means a tenant); in either case

the plant is cut and carted by the planter. When the crop is grown by tenants, the planter supplies the seed and occasionally also gives advances to the tenant, which are adjusted at the end of the year. The plant when cut is fermented in masonry vats, and oxidized either by beating or by currents of steam. The dye thus precipitated is boiled and dried into cakes. In 1894, which was a bumper season, the outturn was 19,040 cwts. valued at 65.46 lakhs; and in 1903-04 it was 10,300 cwts. valued at 20.20 lakhs. Not less than 33,000 labourers are employed daily during the manufacturing season.

Com-
merce.

Champāran exports indigo, oilseeds, grain and a little sugar, and imports salt, piece-goods, kerosene oil, coal, grain and tobacco. The indigo and oilseeds go to Calcutta for shipment overseas, and the grain is exported to the neighbouring Bihār Districts, and to the United Provinces. The imports come from Calcutta, except the grain, which is grown in the United Provinces. The main trade route to Nepāl lies through Champāran, and traffic is registered on the frontier. The bulk of the trade passes through Raxaul, the terminus of the Sagauli-Raxaul branch railway. The railways are the main arteries of commerce, but the Gandak and the Burhi Gandak also carry much traffic, the principal river marts being Gobindganj, Barharwā. Mānpur and Bagahā. The other trade centres are Bettiah, Motihāri, Champatiā, Chāp-kahia, Rāmgarwa, Kesariyā and Madhuban. The traders are Mārwaris, Kalwārs and Agraharis, and to a small extent Muhammadans.

Railways
and roads.

The Tirhut State Railway was opened to Bettiah in August 1883. It is now known as the Bettiah branch of the Bengal and North-Western Railway, and connects with the East Indian Railway by a ferry across the Ganges at Mokameh; a branch from Sagauli runs to Raxaul on the Nepāl frontier. Including 242 miles of village tracks, the District contains 1,303 miles of road, of which 15 miles are metalled; the roads commercially most important are those which lead from the Nepāl border to the railway and to the Gandak river. The District board has not sufficient funds to maintain the roads in good repair. Bridges are few in number, and the income from ferries is considerable.

Famine.

Champāran is very liable to famine. It suffered severely in the great famine of 1770, which is said to have killed one-third of the entire population of Bengal. In 1866 the north of the District was seriously afflicted, and the relief afforded being insufficient, the mortality reached the appalling total of 50,000 souls. The next famine was in 1874, when distress was most acutely felt in thānas Bagahā, Shikārpur and Adāpur. Relief operations were undertaken on a lavish scale; nearly ten lakhs was spent in the District and 28,000 tons of grain were imported. There was on this occasion no mortality from starvation. In

1897 occurred the greatest famine of the century, brought about by deficient and unfavourably distributed rainfall in 1895 and 1896, and intensified by extraordinarily high prices, consequent on similar causes operating over a great part of India. The outturn of early rice in 1896 was very poor and there was an almost total failure of the winter rice crop. The most seriously affected parts were the thānas of Rāmnagar and Shikārpur, where both crops failed completely. Relief works were started in November 1896. The Government expenditure amounted to nearly 25 lakhs, of which over one-half was spent in wages and a quarter in gratuitous relief, while 3 lakhs was advanced as loans. The number of individuals employed, reckoned in terms of one day, was 18 million or rather more than in 1874.

For administrative purposes, the District is divided into two sub-divisions, with head-quarters at MORNARI and BETTIAH. The revenue work at Motihāri is carried on by the Collector, assisted by 3 Assistant and Deputy Collectors, and at Bettiah by the sub-divisional officer and a sub-deputy collector. District sub-divisions and staff.

The District and Sessions Judge, who is also Judge of Muzaffarpur, is assisted in the disposal of civil work by 2 Munsifs stationed at Motihāri. The criminal courts include those of the Sessions Judge, the District Magistrate and the Deputy and Assistant Magistrates at Motihāri and Bettiah. Burglary and cattle thefts are common; dacoits from Nepāl occasionally make raids into the District. Civil and criminal justice.

The earliest settlement was made in 1582 by Todar Mal, Akbar's finance minister, but the area measured was only 148 square miles, as compared with 3,200 square miles now assessed, and the revenue fixed was only 1.38 lakhs. It is noteworthy, however, that Todar Mal's revenue rate was as high as R. 1-0-0 per acre, or four times what it is now. The revenue was altered in 1685, and again in 1750, with the result that when the East India Company obtained possession of the District in 1765, it slightly exceeded 2 lakhs. The revenue dwindled year by year until 1773, when it was only 1.39 lakhs, but in 1791 the decennial settlement raised it to 3.51 lakhs, and two years later the District was permanently settled for 3.86 lakhs. The subsequent increase to 5.15 lakhs was due to the resumption, between 1834 and 1841, of lands held without payment of revenue under invalid titles. The current demand in 1903-04 was 5.15 lakhs payable by 1,247 estates. This gives an incidence of R. 0-5-6 only per cultivated acre, and represents 17 per cent. of the gross rental of the District, and only 1.4 per cent. of the estimated value of the gross agricultural produce. The BETTIAH RAJ, the Rāmnagar Rāj and the Madhuban Bābu own between them nearly the whole District. With the exception of 7 estates paying Rs. 810, the whole District is permanently settled. Land revenue.

Between 1892 to 1899 the whole District, with the exception of a hilly tract to the north, was cadastrally surveyed on the scale of 16" to the mile, and a complete record-of-rights was framed. This has enormously strengthened the position of the cultivator, and has done much to protect him in the peaceful occupation of his holding, and from oppressive enhancement of his rent. The average size of a ryot's holding is 5.19 acres, the largest holdings being found in the sparsely populated tracts in the north-west. Owing to the abundance of waste land, rents are low, and the average rate per acre is only Rs. 2-0-6. Ryots at fixed rates pay on the average R. 1-2-3, settled and occupancy ryots R. 1-14-1, and non-occupancy ryots R. 1-12-10. Produce rents are paid for only 4½ per cent. of the area held by occupancy ryots, but of the area leased to non-occupancy and under-ryots 22 and 65 per cent. respectively are so held. No fewer than 86 per cent. of the ryots have a right of occupancy in their lands, and they hold 83 per cent. of the cultivated area. It has been held by the civil courts that a ryot in Champāran cannot transfer his occupancy right in a holding without the consent of the landlord, but in point of fact an unusually large number of transfers are taking place, and nearly half the purchasers are money-lenders.

The following table shows the collections of land revenue and of total revenue, under the principal heads, in thousands of rupees:—

	1890-91.	1899-01.	1900-01.	1903-04.
Land revenue	5,13	5,14	5,17	5,15
Total revenue	8,80	10,81	10,84	11,14

Local and
municipal
govern-
ment.

Outside the MOTIHARI and BETTIAH municipalities local affairs are managed by a District board; the income of which in 1903-04 was Rs. 1,55,000, including Rs. 86,000 derived from rates, while the expenditure was Rs. 1,34,000, of which Rs. 71,000 was spent on civil works and Rs. 32,000 on education.

Police and
jails.

The District contains 9 police stations and 14 outposts, and the force subordinate to the District Superintendent of Police in 1903 comprised 2 inspectors, 85 sub-inspectors, 24 head-constables, 323 constables and 48 town *chaukidars*; the rural police consisted of 136 *daffadars* and 2,405 *chaukidars*. A small number of *chaukidars* are organized into a special frontier patrol with the object of preventing the inroads of bands of robbers from Nepal. The District jail at Motihari has accommodation for 356 prisoners, and a subsidiary jail at Bettiah for 20.

Education is backward in Champāran, and only 2·3 per cent of the population (4·5 males and 0·1 females) could read and write in 1901. The number of pupils under instruction was 21,803 in 1892-93 and 19,785 in 1900-01, while 18,627 boys and 807 girls were at school in 1903-04, being respectively 14·0 and 0·5 per cent. of the children of school-going age. The number of educational institutions, public and private, in that year was 799, including 11 secondary schools, 693 primary schools and 95 other special schools. The expenditure on education was Rs. 86,000, of which Rs. 10,000 was met from Provincial funds, Rs. 31,000 from District funds, Rs. 1,300 from municipal funds and Rs. 25,000 from fees. The educational institutions include a third grade *gurū*-training school where teachers are trained, and 10 lower primary schools for the education of aboriginal or depressed castes or tribes, 3 being for Magahiya Doms and the remainder for the benefit of the Tharus.

In 1903 the District contained 7 dispensaries, of which 3 Medical had accommodation for 68 in-door patients; the cases of 74,000 out-patients and 1,028 in-patients were treated, and 3,662 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 24,000 and the income Rs. 31,000, of which Rs. 700 was derived from Government contributions, Rs. 4,000 each from local and from municipal funds, and Rs. 17,000 from subscriptions.

Vaccination is compulsory only in the 2 municipal towns; elsewhere it is very backward, and in 1903-04 only 50,000 persons or 28·6 per thousand of the population were successfully vaccinated.

[Sir W. W. Hunter, *Statistical Account of Bengal*, vol. xiii, 1877; O. J. Stevenson-Moore, *Settlement Report*, Calcutta, 1900.]

Mofihāri Sub-division.—Head-quarters sub-division of Champāran District, Bengal, situated between 26° 16' and 27° 1' N., and 84° 30' and 85° 18' E., with an area of 1,518 square miles. The sub-division consists of an alluvial tract traversed by the Sikrāna river, in which the land is level, fertile and highly cultivated. Its population was 1,040,599 in 1901, as compared with 1,099,000 in 1891: The slight decrease was due to the famine of 1897, which stimulated emigration and diminished the fecundity of the people. There are 686 persons to the square mile, or nearly twice as many as in the Bettiah sub-division. There is one town, Mofihāri, the head-quarters (population 13,730), and 1,304 villages. Interesting archaeological remains are found at ARARAJ, KESARIYA and Pipariya. SAGAULI was the scene of an outbreak in the Mutiny.

Bettiah Sub-division.—Northern sub-division of Champāran District, Bengal, lying between 26° 36' and 27° 31' N., and 83° 50' and 84° 46' E., with an area of 2,013 square miles. The southern portion of the sub-division is a level alluvial

plain, but towards the north-west the surface is more undulating. Here a range of low hills extends for about 20 miles, and between this and the Someswar range, which extends along the whole of the northern frontier, lies the Dūn valley. Its population was 749,864 in 1901, compared with 759,865 in 1891; the slight decrease was due to unhealthiness and a series of lean years culminating in the famine of 1897. The density is only 373 persons to the square mile, as compared with 507 in the whole District. The headquarters are at BETTIAH (population 24,696), and there are 1,319 villages. Roman Catholic missions are at work at Bettiah and at Chuhāri. The latter owes its origin to some missionaries who left Italy, in 1707, for Tibet and founded a mission at Lhāsa. Compelled to leave Tibet in 1713, they settled in Nepāl under the Newār kings, but when the Gurkhas came into power, they had to fly and take refuge at Chuhāri, where some land was granted to them. Many of the present flock are descendants of the original fugitives from Nepāl. Interesting archaeological remains are found at LAURIYA NANDAKGARH and Pipariyā. The bulk of the sub-division is included in the BETTIAH Rāj estate, much of which is held by European indigo planters on permanent leases. Rāmnapur, a village 13 miles north-west of Bettiah, is the residence of the Rājā of Rāmnapur, whose title was conferred by Aurangzeb in 1676 and confirmed by the British Government in 1860. He owns extensive forests, which are leased to a European capitalist. The TRIBENI CANAL, which is under construction, will do much to protect this sub-division from famine, to which it has always been acutely liable.

Bettiah Rāj.—A great estate of 1,824 square miles, in the sub-division of the same name, in the Champāran District, Bengal. The property was originally acquired in the middle of the 17th century by a successful military adventurer, Rājā Ugra Sen Singh, a Bābhan or Bhuinhār. In 1765 Rājā Jugal Kishor Singh, who was then in possession of the estate, fell into arrears of revenue and rebelled against the British Government. He was defeated, and the estate was taken under the direct management of Government, but all attempts to collect the revenue failed, and in 1771 he was invited to return, and received the settlement of *parganas* Majhāwa and Simraon, the remainder of the District being given to his cousin and forming the Shinhār Rāj. In 1791 the decennial settlement of the Majhāwa and Simraon *parganas* was made with Bir Kishor, Jugal Kishor's son, and they now constitute the Bettiah Rāj. The title of Mahārājā Bahādur was conferred on the next heir, Anand Kishor, in 1830. The estate has been under the management of the Court of Wards since 1897. The land revenue and cesses due from the estate amount to 6 lakhs, and the collections of rent and cesses to nearly 18 lakhs.

A great portion of the estate is held on permanent leases by European indigo planters.

Ararāj.—Village in the head-quarters sub-division of Champaran District, Bengal, situated in $26^{\circ} 34' N.$ and $84^{\circ} 40' E.$ Population (1901) 1,107. About a mile south-west of the village stands a lofty stone pillar, inscribed with Asoka's edicts, in clear and well-preserved letters. The pillar is fashioned from a single block of polished sandstone, and stands 36.5 feet high with a diameter at the base of 41.8 inches and of 37.6 inches at the top.

Bettiah Town.—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name, in the District of Champaran, Bengal, situated in $26^{\circ} 48' N.$ and $84^{\circ} 30' E.$ on an old bed of the Harhā river. Population (1901) 24,696, of whom 15,795 were Hindus, 7,590 Musalmāns and 1,302 Christians. Bettiah was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income and expenditure for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 16,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 23,000, mainly derived from a tax on persons (or property tax), and the expenditure was Rs. 16,000. A Roman Catholic mission was established about 1740 by Father Joseph Mary, an Italian missionary of the Capuchin order, who was passing near Bettiah on his way to Nepal, when he was summoned by Rājā Dhruva Shāh to attend his daughter, who was dangerously ill. He succeeded in curing her, and the grateful Rājā invited him to stay at Bettiah and gave him a house and some 90 acres of land. Bettiah is the head-quarters of the BETTIAH RAJ, and the Mahārāja's palace is the most noteworthy building. The town contains the usual public offices; a subsidiary jail has accommodation for 26 prisoners.

Kesariyā.—Village in the head-quarters sub-division of Champaran District, Bengal, situated in $26^{\circ} 21' N.$ and $84^{\circ} 53' E.$ Population (1901) 4,466. Kesariyā contains a lofty brick mound, 1,400 feet in circumference, supporting a solid tower or *stūpa* of the same material, 62 feet high and 68 feet in diameter, which was supposed by General Cunningham to have been erected to commemorate one of the acts of Buddha. The brick tower is said to date from 200–700 A. D., but the mound is of an earlier period, being associated with the name of Rājā Bon Chakrabartī, a traditional emperor of India.

Lauriyā Nandangarh.—Village in the Bettiah sub-division of Champaran District, Bengal, situated in $26^{\circ} 59' N.$ and $84^{\circ} 25' E.$ Population (1901) 2,062. The village contains three rows of huge conical mounds, which General Cunningham believes to be the tombs of early kings, belonging to a period antecedent to the rise of Buddhism, somewhere between 1500 and 1000 B. C. Near these mounds stands a lion pillar inscribed with the edicts of Asoka; it is a single block of polished

sandstone, 32 feet 9 inches high, the diameter tapering from 35·5 inches at the base to 26·2 inches at the top. The capital supports a statue of a lion facing the north; the circular abacus is ornamented with a row of Brāhminī geese. The pillar is now worshipped as a phallus, and is commonly known as Bhim Singh's *lath* or club.

Motihāri Town.—Head-quarters of Champāran District, Bengal, situated in 26° 40' N. and 84° 55' E. Population (1901) 13,730. Motihāri was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 16,000, and the expenditure Rs. 14,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 22,000, of which Rs. 8,000 was derived from a tax on houses and lands, and Rs. 3,000 from a municipal market, while the expenditure was Rs. 17,000. The town is pleasantly situated on the east bank of a lake, and contains the usual public offices, a jail and a school. The jail has accommodation for 356 prisoners, and the chief industries carried on are oil pressing, *dari* weaving, net making and the manufacture of string money-bags. Motihāri is the head-quarters of a troop of the Bihār Light Horse.

Saganli.—Village in the head-quarters sub-division of Champāran District, Bengal, situated in 26° 47' N. and 84° 45' E. on the road to Nepāl. Population (1901) 5,611. In the Mutiny of 1857, the 12th Regiment of Irregular Horse, which was stationed here, mutinied and massacred the Commandant, Major Holmes, his wife and children, and all the Europeans in the cantonment.

Bound-
aries,
configura-
tion and
river
system.

Muzaffarpur District.—District in the Patnā Division, Bengal, lying between 25° 29' and 26° 53' N., and 84° 53' and 85° 50' E., with an area of 3,035* square miles. It is bounded on the north by the independent State of Nepāl; on the east by the Darbhanga District; on the south by the Ganges, which divides it from Patnā; and on the west by Champāran and the river Gandak, which separates it from Sāran.

The District is an alluvial plain intersected with streams and for the most part well watered. It is divided by the Bāghmati and Burhī or Little Gandak rivers into three distinct tracts. The country south of the latter is relatively high, but there are slight depressions in places, especially towards the south-east, where there are some lakes, the largest of which is the Tāl Barailā. The *doab* between the Little Gandak and the Bāghmati is the lowest portion of the District, and is liable to frequent inundations. Here too the continual shifting of the rivers has left a large number of semi-circular lakes. The area north of

* The area shown in the census report of 1901 is 3,001 square miles. The figures in the text are those ascertained in the recent survey operations.

the Baghmata running up to the borders of Nepāl is a low-lying marshy plain, traversed at intervals by ridges of higher ground. Of the two boundary streams, the GANGES requires no remark. The other, the Great GANDAK, which joins the Ganges opposite Patna, has no tributaries in this part of its course; in fact, the drainage sets away from it, and the country is protected from inundation by artificial ombankments. The lowest discharge of water into the Ganges towards the end of March amounts to 10,391 cubic foot per second; the highest recorded flood volume is 266,000 cubic feet per second. The river is nowhere fordable; it is full of rapids and whirlpools, and is navigable with difficulty. The principal rivers which intersect the District are the Little Gandak, the Baghmata, the Lakhandai and the Bayā. The Little Gandak (also known as Harhā, Sikrāna, Burhī Gandak or the Muzaffarpur river), crosses the boundary from Champāran 20 miles north-west of Muzaffarpur and flows in a south-easterly direction till it leaves the District near Pūsa, 20 miles to the south-east; it ultimately falls into the Ganges opposite Monghyr. The Baghmata, which rises near Kātmāndu in Nepāl, enters the District 2 miles north of Maniāri Ghāt, and after flowing in a more or less irregular southerly course for some 30 miles, strikes off in a south-easterly direction almost parallel to the Little Gandak, and crossing the District, leaves it near Hāthā 20 miles east of Muzaffarpur; it ultimately joins the Little Gandak above Ruserā in the Darbhanga District. Being a hill stream and flowing on a ridge, it rises very quickly after heavy rains and sometimes causes much damage by over-flowing its banks. A portion of the country north of Muzaffarpur is protected by the Turki embankment. In the dry season the Baghmata is fordable and in some places is not more than knee deep. Its tributaries are numerous:—the Adhwāra or Little Baghmata, Lal Bakya, Bhurongi, Lakhandai, Dhaus and Jhim. Both the Baghmata and Little Gandak are very liable to change their courses. The Lakhandai enters the District from Nepāl near Itharwa (18 miles north of Sitāmarhi). It is a small stream until it is joined by the Sauran and Bāsiād, when it becomes important. Flowing south it passes through Sitāmarhi, where it is crossed by a fine bridge, and then continuing in a south-easterly direction, joins the Baghmata 7 or 8 miles south of the Darbhanga-Muzaffarpur road, which is carried over it by an iron-girder bridge. The stream rises and falls very quickly, and its current is rapid. The Bayā issues out of the Gandak near Sahibganj (34 miles north-west of Muzaffarpur) and flows in a south-easterly direction, leaving the District at Bājipur 30 miles south of Muzaffarpur. The head of the stream is apt to silt up, but is at present open. The Bayā is largely fed by drainage from the marshes and attains its greatest height when

the Gandak and the Ganges are both in flood; it joins the latter river, a few miles south of Dalsingh Sarai in Darbhanga District.

The most important of the minor streams are the Purāna Dar Bāghmati (an old bed of the Bāghmati stretching from Mallāhi on the frontier to Belānpur Ghāt, where it joins the present stream) and the Adhwāra. These flow southwards from Nepāl and are invaluable for irrigation in years of drought, when numerous dams are thrown across them. The largest sheet of water in the District is the Tāl Barnālā in the south; its area is about 20 square miles, and it is the haunt of innumerable wild duck and other water fowl.

Geology. The soil of the District is old alluvium; beds of *kankar* or nodular limestone of an inferior quality are occasionally found.

Botany. The District contains no forests, and except for a few very small patches of jungle, of which the chief constituents are the red cotton tree (*Bombax malabaricum*), *khair* (*Acacia catechu*) and *sir-i* (*Dalbergia sissoo*), with an undergrowth of euphorbiaceous and urticaceous shrubs and tree weeds, and occasional large stretches of grass land interspersed with smaller spots of *bar* land, the ground is under close cultivation, and besides the crops carries only a few field weeds. Near villages small shrubberies may be found containing mango, *sisā*, *Eugenia jambolana*, various species of *Ficus*, an occasional tamarind, and a few other semi-spontaneous and more or less useful species. The numerous and extensive mango groves form one of the most striking features of the District. Both the palmyra (*Borassus flabelliformis*) and the date palm (*Phoenix sylvestris*) occur planted and at times self-sown, but neither in great abundance. The field and roadside weeds include various grasses and sedges, chiefly species of *Panicum* and *Cyperus*; in waste corners and on railway embankments thickets of *sisā*, derived both from seeds and rootsuckers, very rapidly appear. The sluggish streams and ponds are filled with water weeds, the sides being often fringed by reedy grasses and bulrushes with occasionally tamarisk bushes intermixed.

Fauna. The advance of civilization has driven back the larger animals into the jungles of Nepāl, and the District now contains no wild beasts except hogs and a few wolves and *nīlgai*. Crocodiles infest some of the rivers. Snakes abound, the most common being the cobra, *karait* (*Bungarus caruleus*) and *gohuman* (*Naja tripudians*).

Climate and temperature. Dry westerly winds are experienced in the hot season, but the temperature is not excessive. The mean maximum ranges from 73° in January to 97° in April and May and falls to 74° in December, the temperature falling rapidly in November and December. The mean minimum varies from 49° in January to

79° in June, July and August. The average annual rainfall is 46 inches, of which 7·4 inches fall in June, 12·4 in July, 11·3 in August and 7·6 in September; cyclonic storms are apt to move northwards into the District in the two last-named months. Humidity at Muzaffarpur is on an average 67 per cent. in March, 66 in April and 76 in May, and varies from 84 to 91 per cent. in other months.

One of the marked peculiarities of the rivers and streams of this part of the country is that they flow on ridges raised above the surrounding country by the silt which they have brought down. Muzaffarpur District is thus subject to severe and widespread inundations from their overflow. In 1788 a disastrous flood occurred which, it was estimated, damaged one-fifth of the area sown with winter crops, while so many cattle died of disease that the cultivation of the remainder was seriously hampered. The Great Gandak, which was formerly quite unfettered towards the east, used regularly to flood the country along its banks and not infrequently swept clean across the southern half of the District. From the beginning of the 19th century attempts were made to raise an embankment strong enough to protect the country from inundation, but without success, until in the famine of 1874 the existing embankment was raised, strengthened and extended, thus effectually checking the incursions of the river. The tract on the south of the Baghmata is also partially protected by an embankment first raised in 1810, but the *dodā* between the Baghmata and the Little Gandak is still liable to inundation. Heavy floods occurred in 1796, 1867, 1871, 1883 and 1898. Another severe flood visited the north of the District in August 1902. The town of Sitamarhi and the *dodā* between the Little Gandak and the Baghmata suffered severely, and it was reported that 60 lives were lost, 14,000 houses damaged or destroyed, while a large number of cattle were drowned. In Sitamarhi itself 700 houses were damaged and 12,000 maunds of grain destroyed, and it was estimated that half of the maize crop and almost half of the *marua* crop were lost. Muzaffarpur town, which formerly suffered severely from these floods, is now protected by an embankment. One of the most disastrous floods known in the history of the District occurred in 1906, when the area inundated comprised a quarter of the whole district, i.e., 750 square miles and over 1,000 villages. Great distress ensued among the cultivators, and relief measures were necessitated.

In ancient times the north of the District formed part of the old kingdom of MITHILA, while the south corresponded to VAISALI, the capital of which was probably at BASARI in thana Lalganj. Mithila passed successively under the Pal and the Sen dynasties and was conquered by Muhammad-i-Bakhtyar

Khilji in 1203. From the middle of the 14th century it was ruled by a line of Brāhman kings until it was incorporated in the Mughal empire in 1556. Under the Mughals Hājipur and Tirhut were separate *sarkars*, and the town of HAJIPUR, which was then a place of strategical importance owing to its position at the confluence of the Ganges and the Gandak, rose to considerable prominence and was the scene of several rebellions. After the acquisition by the British of the *divāni* of Bengal, Bihār and Orissa in 1765, *sabak* Bihār was retained as an independent revenue division, and in 1782 Tirhut (including Hājipur) was made into a separate collectorate. This was split up in 1875 into the two existing Districts of Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga. During the Mutiny of 1857 a small number of native troops at Muzaffarpur town rose, plundered the Collector's house and attacked the treasury and jail, but were driven off by the police and decamped towards Siwān in Sāran District without causing any further disturbance.

Archæological interest centres round BASARH, which has been identified as the capital of the ancient kingdom of Vaisālī.

The population of the present area increased from 2,246,752 in 1872 to 2,683,404 in 1881, to 2,712,857 in 1891 and to 2,754,790 in 1901. The recorded growth between 1872 and 1881 was due in part to the defects in the census of 1872. The District is very healthy, except perhaps in the country to the north of the Bāghmati, which is more marshy than that to the south of it. Deaf-mutism is prevalent along the course of the Burhi Gandak and Bāghmati rivers. The salient statistics of the census of 1901 are reproduced below:—

SUB-DIVISION.	Area in square miles.	NUMBER OF		Popula- tion.	Popula- tion per square mile.	Percent- age of variation in popula- tion be- tween 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Muzaffarpur ..	1,231	1	1,712	1,050,027	860	-2.3	45,671
Siitamarhi ..	1,016	1	996	956,532	971	+6.7	29,092
Hājipur ..	793	2	1,412	718,181	900	+0.6	31,702
DISTRICT TOTAL .	3,035	4	4,120	2,754,790	909	+1.6	107,565

The four towns are MUZAFFARPUR, the head-quarters, HAJIPUR, LALGANJ and SITAMARHI. Muzaffarpur is more densely populated than any other District in Bengal. The inhabitants are very evenly distributed; in only a small tract to the west does the average number per square mile fall below 900, while in no part of the District does it exceed 1,000. Every thāna in the

great rice growing tract north of the Bāghmati showed an increase of population at the last census, while every thāna south of that river, except Hājipur on the extreme south, showed a decrease. In the former tract population has been growing steadily since the first census in 1872, and it attracts settlers both from Nepāl and from the south of the District. The progress has been greatest in the Sitāmarhi and Sheohar thānas which march with the Nepāl frontier. A decline in the Muzaffarpur thāna is attributed to its having suffered most from cholera epidemics and to the fact that this tract supplies the majority of the persons who emigrate to Lower Bengal in search of work. The District as a whole loses largely by migration, especially to the metropolitan Districts, Purnea and North Bengal. The majority of these emigrants are employed as earth-workers and *pālī*-bearers, while others are shopkeepers, domestic servants, constables, peons, etc. The vernacular of the District is the Maithili dialect of Bihārī. Musalmāns speak a form of Awadhī Hindi known as Shekholi or Musalmāni. In 1901 Hindus numbered 2,416,415 or 87·71 per cent. of the total population, and Musalmāns 337,611 or 12·26 per cent.

The most numerous Hindu castes are Ahirs or Gollās (335,000), Bābhāns (200,000), Dosādhs (187,400), Rājputs (176,000), Koiris (147,000), Chamārs (136,000) and Kurmis (126,000), while Brāhmanas, Dhānuks, Kāndus, Mallāhs, Nuniās, Tāntis and Telis all number between 50,000 and 100,000. Of the Muhammadans 127,000 are Shaikhs and 85,000 Jolāhās, while Dhuniās and Kunjās are also numerous. Agriculture supports 76·1 per cent. of the population, industries 6·2 per cent., commerce 0·6 per cent. and the professions 0·7 per cent.

Christians number 719, of whom 341 are natives. Four Christian missions are at work in Muzaffarpur town, the German Evangelical Lutheran Mission, founded in 1840, which maintains a primary school for destitute orphans, the American Methodist Episcopal Missionary Society, which possesses two schools, a branch of the Bettiah Roman Catholic Mission and an independent lady missionary engaged in zenāna work.

The tract south of the Little Gandak is the most fertile and richest portion of the District. The low-lying *doab* between Little Gandak and the Bāghmati is mainly productive of paddy, though *rabi* and *bhadoi* harvests are also reaped. The tract to the north of the Bāghmati contains excellent paddy land, and the staple crop is winter rice, though good *rabi* and *bhadoi* crops are also raised in parts. In different parts of the District different names are given to the soil, according to the proportions of sand, clay, iron and saline matter it contains. Ultimately all can be grouped under four heads—*balundar* (sandy loam); *matigāri* (clayey soil); *lāngar* (lighter than *matigāri* and containing an

admixture of sand); and lastly patches of *asar* (containing the saline efflorescence known as *reh*) found scattered over the District. To the south of the Little Grandak *balsundar* predominates, in the *doab* the soil is chiefly *matiyāri*, while north of the Bāghmati *bāngar* predominates to the east of the Lakhandai river and *matiyāri* to the west. Paddy is chiefly grown on *matiyāri* soil, but it also does well in low-lying *bāngar* lands and the finer varieties of rice thrive on such lands. Good *rabi* crops, viz., wheat, barley, oats, *rahar*, pulses, oilseeds and edible roots grow luxuriantly in *balsundar* soil, and to this reason is ascribed the superior fertility of the south of the District. *Bhadai* crops, especially Indian corn which cannot stand too much moisture, also prosper in *balsundar* which quickly absorbs the surplus water. Indigo does best in *balsundar*, but *bāngar* is also suitable.

The salient agricultural statistics for 1903-04 are given below, areas being in square miles:—

SUB-DIVISION.			Total.	Cultivated.	Culturable waste.
Muzaffarpur	...	...	1,321	1,025	78
Sitamarhi	...	...	1,016	897	48
Hajipur	...	...	798	610	46
TOTAL			8,035	2,541	170

It is estimated that 1,075 square miles, or 42 per cent. of the net cultivated area, are twice cropped.

The principal food crops are rice grown on 1,200 square miles, of which winter rice covers 1,029 square miles. The greater part of the rice is transplanted. Other food grains, including pulses, *khesari*, *china*, *rahar*, *kodon*, peas, oats, *masuri*, *śācān*, *kaunī*, *urd*, *mūng*, *janerā* (*Holcus sorghum*), *kurthi* (*Dolichos biflorus*) and other minor products, cover 804 square miles. Barley occupies 463 square miles, a larger area than in any other Bengal District, *makai* or Indian corn, another very important crop, 256 square miles, *marua* 129 square miles, wheat 114 square miles and gram 68 square miles, and miscellaneous food crops, including *aluā* or yams, *sūthi* and potatoes, are grown on 122 square miles. Oilseeds, principally linseed, are raised on 86 square miles. Other important crops are indigo, sugarcane, poppy, tobacco and thatching grass. Muzaffarpur is, after Champāran, the chief indigo District in Bengal, but its cultivation here, as elsewhere, is losing ground owing to the competition of the synthetic dye. European indigo planters have of late been turning their attention to other crops, in particular sugarcane and *rhoeo*. Poppy is cultivated, as in other parts of Bihār, on a system of Government advances; the total area under the crop in 1903-04 was 12,400 acres and

the outturn 35 tons of opium. Cowdung and indigo refuse are used as manure for special crops, such as sugarcane, tobacco, opium and indigo.

Cultivation is far more advanced in the south than in the north of the District, but up to the present there appears to be no indication of any progress or improvement in the method of cultivation except in the neighbourhood of indigo factories. Over 2 lakhs of rupees was advanced under the Agriculturists' Loans Act on the occasion of the last famine, but otherwise this Act and the Land Improvement Loans Act have been made little use of.

The District has always borne a high reputation for its cattle, and the East India Company used to get draught bullocks for the Ordnance department here; large numbers of animals are exported every year from the Sitamarhi sub-division to all parts of North Bihar. It is said that the breed is deteriorating. In the north, floods militate against success in breeding, and in the District as a whole, though there is never an absolute lack of food for cattle even in the driest season, the want of good pasture grounds compels the cultivator to feed his cattle very largely in his *bathán*. A large cattle fair is held at Sitamarhi every April.

The total area irrigated is 47 square miles, of which 30 square miles are irrigated from wells, 2 square miles from private canals, 6 square miles from tanks or *dhars*, and 9 square miles from other sources, mainly by damming rivers. There are no Government canals. In the north there is a considerable opening for the *paín* and *dhar* system of irrigation so prevalent in Gayá, but the want of an artificial water supply is not great enough to induce the people to provide themselves with it.

Kankar, a nodular limestone of an inferior quality, is found and is used for metalling roads. The District is rich in saliferous earth, and a special caste, the Nuniás, earn a scanty livelihood by extracting saltpetre; 98,000 maunds of saltpetre were produced in 1903-04, the salt reduced during the manufacture being 6,000 maunds.

Coarse cloth, carpets, pottery and mats are locally manufactured; *pálkis*, cartwheels and other articles of general use are made by carpenters in the south, and rough cutlery is made at Lāwārpur. But by far the most important industry is the manufacture of indigo. Indigo was a product of North Bihar long before the advent of the British, but its cultivation by European methods appears to have been started by Mr. Grand, Collector of Tirhut, in 1782. In 1788 there were 5 Europeans in possession of indigo works. In 1793 the number of factories in the District had increased to 9, situated at Daudpur, Sarahiá Dhuli, Atharsháhpur, Kantai, Motipur, Deoria and Bhawāra.

In 1850 the Revenue Surveyor found 86 factories in Tihut, several of which were then used for the manufacture of sugar and were subsequently converted into indigo concerns. In 1897 the Settlement Officer enumerated 23 head factories, with an average of three outworks under each, belonging to the Bihar Indigo Planters' Association, besides 9 independent factories. The area under indigo had till then been steadily on the increase, reaching in that year 87,258 acres, while that industry was estimated to employ a daily average of 35,000 labourers throughout the year. Since then, owing to the competition of artificial dye, the price of natural indigo has fallen and the area under cultivation has rapidly diminished, being estimated in 1903-04 at 48,060 acres. Though only about 3 per cent. of the cultivated area is actually sown with indigo, the planters are in the position of landlords over more than a sixth of the District. They are attempting to meet the fall in prices by more scientific methods of cultivation and manufacture, and many concerns now combine the cultivation of other crops with indigo. Indigo is either cultivated by the planter through his servants under the *sirāt*, or home-farm system, or else by tenants under what is known as the *āsāmīcar* system (*āsāmī* means a tenant), under the direction of the factory servants; in either case the plant is cut and carted by the planter. Under the latter system, the planter supplies the seed and occasionally also gives advances to the tenant, which are adjusted at the end of the year. The plant, when cut, is fermented in masonry vats, and oxidized either by beating or by currents of steam. The dye thus precipitated is boiled and dried into cakes. In 1903-04 the outturn of indigo was 11,405 maunds valued at 15.97 lakhs.

The recent fall in prices has resulted in the revival of the manufacture of sugar. A company acquired in 1900-01 the well known indigo estates of Ottur (Athar) and Agril in Muzaffarpur and Sirāha in Champāran for the purpose of cultivating sugarcane. Cane crushing mills and sugar refining plant of the neat modern type were erected at those places and also at Barhoga in Saran. These factories are capable of crushing 75,000 tons of cane in 100 working days and of refining about 14,000 tons of sugar during the remainder of the year. Twelve Europeans and 500 to 600 natives a day are employed in the factories during the cane crushing season, and 10 Europeans and many thousands of natives throughout the year on the cultivation of the estates and the manufacture of sugar; besides this, the neighbouring planters contract to grow sugarcane and sell it to the company. It is claimed that the sugar turned out is of the best quality; and a ready sale for it has been found in the towns of Northern India.

The principal exports are indigo, sugar, oilseeds, saltpetre, hides, *gāi*, tobacco, opium and fruit and vegetables. The main

imports are salt, European and Indian cotton piece-goods and hardware, coal and coke, kerosene oil, cereals, such as maize, millets, etc., rice and other food grains, and indigo seed. Most of the exports find their way to Calcutta. The bulk of the traffic is now carried by the railway, and the old river-marts now show a tendency to decline, unless they happen to be situated on the line of railway, like Mehnār, Bhagwānpur and BAIKAGNIA, which are steadily growing in importance. Nepāl exports to Muzaffarpur food grains, oilseeds, timber, skins of sheep, goats and cattle, and saltpetre, and receives in return sugar, salt, tea, utensils, kerosene oil, spices and piece-goods. A considerable cart traffic thus goes on from and to Nepāl and between Sāran and the north of the District. The chief centres of trade are Muzaffarpur on the Little Gandak (navigable in the rains for boats of about 37 tons up to Muzaffarpur), Hājipur (a railway centre), Lālganj (a river mart on the Great Gandak), Sītāmarhi (a great rice mart), Bairagnia and Sursand (grain marts for the Nepāl trade), Mehnār, Sahibganj, Sonbarsā, Belā, Majorganj, Mahuwā and Kantai. The trade of the District is in the hands of Mārwaris and local Baniyā castes.

The District is served by four distinct branches of the Bengal Railways and North-Western Railway. The first, which connects Simaria Ghāt on the Ganges with Bettiah in the Champāran District, runs in a south-easterly direction through Muzaffarpur District passing through the head-quarters town. The second branch enters the District at the Sonpur bridge over the Great Gandak, passes through Hājipur, and runs eastwards to Katihār in Purnea District, where it joins the Eastern Bengal State Railway; it intersects the first branch at Baruni junction in the Monghyr District. The third runs from Hājipur to Muzaffarpur town thus connecting the first two branches. The fourth, which leaves the first mentioned branch line at Samastipur in Darbhanga District, enters Muzaffarpur District near Kamtaul and passing through Sītāmarhi town has its terminus at Bairagnia. Communication with that place is, however, at present kept open only during the dry weather months by a temporary bridge over the Bāghmati about 3 miles away, but the construction of a permanent structure is contemplated. The District is well provided with roads and especially with feeder roads to the railways. Including 542 miles of village tracks, it contains (1903-04) in all 76 miles of metalled and 1,689 miles of unmetalled roads, all of which are maintained by the District board. The most important road is that from Hājipur through Muzaffarpur and Sītāmarhi towns to Sonbarsā, a large mart on the Nepāl frontier. Important roads also connect Muzaffarpur town with Darbhanga, Motihārī and Sāran, 11 main roads in all radiating from Muzaffarpur. The sub-divisional head-quarters of Hājipur and Sītāmarhi are also connected by

good roads with their police thānas and outposts. Most of the minor rivers are bridged by masonry structures, while the larger ones are generally crossed by ferries, of which there are 67 in the District. The Little Gandak close to Muzaffarpur on the Sitāmarhi road is crossed by a pontoon bridge 850 feet in length.

Water
communi-
cations.

During the rainy season when the rivers are high, a considerable quantity of traffic is still carried in country boats along the Gandak, Little Gandak and Baghmāti rivers. *Sāl* (*Shorea robusta*) timber from Nepāl is floated down the two latter, and also a large quantity of bamboos. The Ganges on the south is navigable throughout the year, and a daily service of steamers plies to and from Goalundo.

Famine.

The terrible famine of 1760-70 is supposed to have carried off a third of the entire population of Bihār. Another great famine occurred in 1866, in which it was estimated that 200,000 people died throughout Bihār; this was especially severely felt in the extreme north of the District. Muzaffarpur again suffered severely in the famine of 1874, when deficiency of rain in September 1873 and its complete cessation in October led to a serious shortness in the winter rice crop. Relief works were opened about the beginning of 1874. No less than one-seventh of the total population was in receipt of relief. There was some scarcity in 1876, when no relief was actually required, in 1889, when the rice crop again failed and relief was given to about 30,000 persons, and in 1891-92, when on the average 5,000 persons daily were relieved for a period of 19 weeks. Then came the famine of 1896-97, the greatest famine of the 19th century. On this occasion, owing to better communications and their improved material condition, the people showed unexpected powers of resistance. Three test works started in the Sitāmarhi sub-division in November 1896 failed to attract labour, and it was not till the end of January that distress became in any sense acute. The number of persons in receipt of relief then rose rapidly till the end of May, when 59,000 persons with 4,000 dependents were on relief works, and 59,000 more were in receipt of gratuitous relief. The number thus aided increased to 72,000 in July, but the number of relief workers had meanwhile declined, and the famine was over by the end of September. The total expenditure on relief works was 5·64 lakhs and on gratuitous relief 4·91 lakhs, in addition to which large advances were made under the Agriculturists' Loans Act. The import of rice into the District during the famine was nearly 33,000 tons, chiefly Burma rice from Calcutta. The whole of the District suffered severely except the south of the Hajipur sub-division, but the brunt of the distress was borne by the Sitāmarhi sub-division.

For general administrative purposes the District is divided into 3 sub-divisions with head-quarters at MUZAFFARPUR, HAJIPUR and SITAMARHI. The staff subordinate to the District Magistrate-Collector at head-quarters consists of a Joint Magistrate, Assistant Magistrate and 9 Deputy Magistrate-Collectors, while the Hajipur and Sitamarhi sub-divisions are each in charge of an Assistant Magistrate-Collector assisted by a sub deputy collector. The Superintending Engineer and the Executive Engineer of the Gandak Division are stationed at Muzaffarpur. District sub-divisions and staff.

The civil courts are those of the District and Sessions Judge (who is also Judge of Champaran), 3 Sub-Judges and 2 Munsifs at Muzaffarpur, and 1 Munsiff each at Sitamarhi and Hajipur. Criminal courts include those of the District and Sessions Judge and District Magistrate, and the above mentioned Joint, Assistant and Deputy Magistrates. When the District first passed under British rule, it was in a very lawless state, overrun by hordes of banditti and infested by bands of robbers. This state of affairs has long ceased. The people are, as a rule, peaceful and law-abiding, and heinous offences and crimes of violence are comparatively rare. Civil and criminal justice.

At the time of the decennial settlement in 1790 the total area of the estates assessed to land revenue in Tirhut was 2,476 square miles, or 40 per cent. only of its area of 6,313 square miles, and the total land revenue 9.84 lakhs, which gives an incidence of 9 annas per acre; the demand for the estates in the Muzaffarpur District alone was 4.36 lakhs. In 1822 operations were undertaken for the resumption of invalid revenue-free grants, the result of which was to add 6.77 lakhs to the revenue-roll of Tirhut, of which 3.18 lakhs fell to Muzaffarpur. Owing to partitions and resumptions, the number of estates in Tirhut increased from 1,331 in 1790, of which 799 were in Muzaffarpur, to 5,186 in 1850. Since that date advantage has been taken of the provisions of the partition laws to a most remarkable extent, and in 1903-04 the total number of revenue paying estates had risen to no less than 20,851, a larger number than in any District in Bengal. Of these 20,803, all but 51 with a demand of Rs. 18,000 were permanently settled. The total land revenue demand in the same year was 9.78 lakhs. Owing to the backward state of the District at the time of the permanent settlement the incidence of revenue is only R. 0.2-6 per cultivated acre. revenue.

A survey and preparation of record-of-rights for the Muzaffarpur and Champaran Districts was commenced in 1890-91 and successfully completed in 1899-1900, and is important as being the first operation of the kind which was undertaken in Bengal for entire Districts which came under the permanent settlement. The average size of ryots' holdings in Muzaffarpur was found to be 1.97 acres, and 82 per cent. of them were held by occupancy

and settled ryots. Such ryots almost always pay rent in cash, but one-fifth of the non-occupancy ryots; and three-fifths of the under-ryots pay produce rents. These are of 3 kinds, *balai*, *bhaoh* and *munkhap*; in the first case the actual produce is divided, generally in equal proportions, between the tenant and the landlord; in the second the crop is appraised in the field and the landlord's share paid in cash or grain, while in the third the tenant agrees to pay so many maunds of grain per *bigha*. The average rate of rent per acre for all classes of ryots is Rs. 4-0-11. Ryots holding at fixed rates pay Rs. 2-11-11, occupancy ryots Rs. 3-12-3, non-occupancy ryots Rs. 4-9-6, and under-ryots Rs. 4-5-8 per acre. The rent, however, varies not only with the character and situation of the land, but also according to the caste and position of the cultivator, a tenant of a high caste paying less than one of lower social rank. Rents are higher in the south than in the north, where the demand for land has developed at a comparatively recent date. The highest rents of all are paid in the neighbourhood of Hajipur, where poppy, tobacco, potatoes, &c., are grown on land which is never fallow and often produces four crops a year.

The following table shows the collections of land revenue and of total revenue, under the principal heads, in thousands of rupees:—

	1880-81.	1890-91.	1900-01.	1903-04.
Land revenue	9,75	9,87	9,77	9,77
Total revenue	17,59	16,94	21,91	22,17

Local and
municipal
govern-
ment.

Outside the municipalities of MUZAFFARPUR, HAJIPUR, LAL-GANJ and SHAMARIH, local affairs are managed by the District board with subordinate local boards in each sub-division. In 1903-04 its income was Rs. 3,31,000, of which Rs. 1,83,000 was derived from rates and the expenditure was Rs. 3,60,000, the chief item being Rs. 2,60,000 expended on civil works.

Public
works.

The most important public works are the Tirhut embankment on the left bank of the great Gandak and the Turki embankment on the south bank of the Bagmati. The Gandak embankment, which runs for 52 miles from the head of the Baya river to the confluence of the Gandak and Ganges and protects 1,260 square miles of country, is maintained by contract. On the expiry of the first contract in 1903 a new contract for its maintenance for a period of 20 years at a cost of 2-08 lakhs was sanctioned by Government. The Turki embankment, originally built in 1810 by the Kantai Indigo Factory to protect the lands of that concern, was acquired by Government about 1870. It extends from the

Turki weir 26 miles along the south bank of the Baghmati and protects 90 square miles of the *doab* between that river and the Little Gandak. In 1903-04 Rs. 2,200 was spent on its maintenance.

The District contains 22 police-stations and 14 outposts, and the force subordinate to the District Superintendent of Police consists of 3 inspectors, 28 sub-inspectors, 47 head-constables and 432 constables; a rural police force is composed of 238 *daffadars* and 4,735 *chaukidars*. A District jail at Muzaffarpur has accommodation for 465 prisoners, and subsidiary jails at Hajipur and Sitamarhi for 38. Police and jails.

The standard of literacy, though higher than elsewhere in North Bihar, is considerably below the average for Bengal, only 3.9 per cent. of the population (7.8 males and 0.3 females) being able to read and write in 1901. The number of pupils under instruction, which was 24,000 in 1880-81, fell to 23,373 in 1892-93, but increased to 29,759 in 1900-01, while in 1903-04, 35,084 boys and 1,843 girls were at school, being respectively 17.7 and 0.85 per cent. of the children of school-going age. The number of educational institutions, public and private, in that year was 1,520, including one Arts college, 20 secondary schools, 1,013 primary schools and 486 other schools. The expenditure on education was 1.55 lakhs, of which Rs. 11,000 was met from Provincial funds, Rs. 53,000 from District funds, Rs. 3,000 from municipal funds and Rs. 57,000 from fees. The most important institutions are the Bhuihār Brāhman college and the Government District school at Muzaffarpur. Education.

In 1903 the District contained 5 dispensaries, of which 3 had accommodation for 62 in-door patients. The cases of 72,000 out-patients and 800 in-patients were treated, and 4,000 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 13,000, of which Rs. 900 was met by Government contributions, Rs. 5,000 from local and Rs. 4,000 from municipal funds, and Rs. 3,000 from subscriptions. Besides these, 2 private dispensaries are maintained, one at Baghi in the head-quarters sub-division and the other at Parihar in the Sitamarhi sub-division by the Darbbangā Rāj. Medical.

Vaccination is compulsory only in municipal areas. During 1903-04 the number of persons successfully vaccinated was 87,000, representing 32.6 per thousand of the population, or rather less than the general ratio for Bengal. Vaccination.

[L. S. S. O'Malley, *District Gazetteer*, Calcutta, 1907; C. J. Stevenson-Moore, *Settlement Report*, Calcutta, 1900.]

Muzaffarpur Sub-division.—Head-quarters sub-division of the Muzaffarpur District, Bengal, lying between 25° 54' and 26° 28' N., and 84° 53' and 85° 45' E., with an area of 1,221 square miles. The sub-division is an alluvial tract bounded on the west by

the Great Gandak and intersected by the Bāghmati and Little Gandak flowing in a south-easterly direction. Its population was 1,050,027 in 1901, compared with 1,074,382 in 1891, the density being 860 persons to the square mile. The slight decline in the population is partly due to the Muzaffarpur thāna having suffered from cholera epidemics, and partly to the fact that it supplies a large number of emigrant labourers to Lower Bengal. Moreover the *doab* between the Bāghmati and the Little Gandak is liable to frequent inundations. The sub-division contains one town, MUZAFFARPUR, its head-quarters (population 45,617), and 1,712 villages.

Sitāmarhi Sub-division.—Northern sub-division of the Muzaffarpur District, Bengal, lying between $26^{\circ} 16'$ and $26^{\circ} 53'$ N., and $85^{\circ} 11'$ and $85^{\circ} 50'$ E., with an area of 1,016 square miles. The sub-division is a low-lying alluvial plain, traversed at intervals by ridges of higher ground. Its population rose from 924,396 in 1891 to 986,582 in 1901, when there were 971 persons to the square mile. In spite of the fact that it is particularly liable to crop failures and bore the brunt of the famine of 1896-97, this is the most progressive part of the District and has been growing steadily since the first census in 1872; it attracts settlers both from Nopāl and from the south of the District. The sub-division contains one town, SITĀMARHI, its head-quarters (population 9,538), and 996 villages. BAIRAGNĪ, the terminus of a branch of the Bengal and North-Western Railway, is an important market for the frontier trade with Nēpāl. The sub-division is noted for its breed of cattle, and an important fair is held annually at Sitāmarhi in March-April.

Hājipur Sub-division.—Southern sub-division of the Muzaffarpur District, Bengal, lying between $25^{\circ} 29'$ and $26^{\circ} 1'$ N., and $85^{\circ} 4'$ and $85^{\circ} 39'$ E., with an area of 798 square miles. The sub-division is an alluvial tract, fertile and highly cultivated, containing a number of swampy depressions in the south-east. Its population rose from 714,079 in 1891 to 718,181 in 1901, when there were 900 persons to the square mile. It contains 2 towns, HAJIPUR, its head-quarters (population 21,398), and LĀLGANJ (11,502), and 1,412 villages. The chief trading centres are Hājipur at the confluence of the Gandak with the Ganges and Lālganj on the Gandak. BASARH is of interest as the probable site of the capital of the ancient kingdom of Vaisālī. Hājipur town figured conspicuously in the history of the struggles between Akber and the rebellious Afghān governors of Bengal.

Bairagnī.—Village in the Sitāmarhi sub-division of the Muzaffarpur District, Bengal, situated in $26^{\circ} 44'$ N. and $85^{\circ} 20'$ E. on the Nēpāl frontier on the east bank of the Lal Bakrā river. Population (1901) 2,405. Bairagnī, which is the terminus of a branch of the Bengal and North-Western Railway, is a large

grain and oilseed depôt of growing importance where the dealers of the plains meet the hillmen and the Nepál trade changes hands.

Basárh.—Village in the Hājipur sub-division of Muzaffarpur District, Bengal, situated in 25° 59' N. and 85° 8' E. Population (1901) 3,527. Basárh is identified with the capital of the ancient kingdom of Vaisáli. In the sixth century B. C. a confederacy of the Lichchavis was predominant here and was able to prevent the kingdom of Magadha from expanding on the north bank of the Ganges. Vaisáli was a great stronghold of Buddhism, and Gautama visited it three times during his life. Here was held the second Buddhist council which had so great an effect in splitting up the Buddhists into the northern and southern sects. The town was visited by Fa Hien and Hsien Tsiang; the latter found the town in ruins. The principal antiquarian feature of the place is a large brick-covered mound measuring 1,580 feet by 760 and representing the remains of a vast fort or palace. In the neighbourhood is a huge stone pillar surmounted with the figure of a lion. This monolith, though locally known as Bhīm Singh's *lath*, appears clearly to be one of the pillars erected by Asoka to mark the stages of the journey to Nepál which he undertook in order to visit some of the holy sites of Buddhism. It bears no inscription, but can be identified with one of the Asoka pillars mentioned by Hsien Triang at the site of ancient Vaisáli. [*Archæological Survey Reports*, vol. xvi, pp. 83-93; and *Reports of the Archæological Surveyor, Bengal Circle*, for 1901-02 and 1903-04.]

Hājipur Town.—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name, Muzaffarpur District, Bengal, situated in 25° 41' N. and 85° 12' E., on the right bank of the Gandak, a short distance above its confluence with the Ganges opposite Patna. Population (1901) 21,394. It is said to have been founded about 600 years ago by Hāji Ilyās, the supposed ramparts of whose fort enclosing an area of some 360 *bighas* are still visible. The old town is said to have reached as far as Mehnār thāna 20 miles to the east, and to a village called Gadaiarai on the north. Hājipur figured conspicuously in the history of the struggles between Akbar and his rebellious Afghan governors of Bengal, being twice besieged and captured by the imperial troops in 1672 and again in 1674. Its command of water traffic in three directions makes the town a place of considerable commercial importance. Moreover, it lies on the main line of the Bengal and North-Western Railway, which runs west from Katihār, and is also connected by a direct branch with Muzaffarpur town. Hājipur was constituted a municipality in 1869. The area within municipal limits is 10 square miles. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 11,000 and the expenditure Rs. 8,900. In 1903-04 the income

was Rs. 13,000, mainly from a tax on houses and lands, and the expenditure was Rs. 15,000. The town contains the usual public offices; the sub-jail has accommodation for 12 prisoners. Within the area of the old fort is a small stone mosque, very plain but of peculiar architecture, attributed to Hāji Ilyās. Its top consists of three rounded domes, the centre one being the largest. They are built of horizontally placed rows of stones, each row being a circle and each circle being more contracted than the one immediately below it, until the key stone is reached, which is circular. Two other mosques and a small Hindu temple are in the town or its immediate vicinity. A Buddhist temple, surrounded by a *sarai* or rest-house, was built for the late Sir Jang Bahādur on the occasion of his visits from Nepal.

Lālganj.—Town in the Hājipur sub-division of Muzaffarpur District, Bengal, situated in $25^{\circ} 52' N.$ and $85^{\circ} 10' E.$ on the east bank of the Gandak, 12 miles north-west of Hājipur town. Population (1901) 11,502. Lālganj is an important river mart, the principal exports being hides, oilseeds and saltpetre, and the imports food-grains (chiefly rice), salt and piece-goods. The bazar lies on the low land adjoining the river, but is protected from inundation by the Gandak embankments. The shipping *ghāt* lies a mile to the south of the town, which is connected by road with Sāhibganj, Muzaffarpur and Hājipur. Lālganj was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 5,600 and the expenditure Rs. 4,700. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 6,500, mainly from a tax on houses and lands, and the expenditure was Rs. 6,000.

Muzaffarpur Town.—Head-quarters of Muzaffarpur District, Bengal, situated in $26^{\circ} 7' N.$, and $85^{\circ} 24' E.$ on the right bank of the Little Gandak. The population which was 38,241 in 1872 increased to 42,460 in 1881 and to 49,192 in 1891, but fell in 1901 to 45,617, of whom 31,629 were Hindus and 13,492 Muhammadans. The decrease of 9 per cent. at the last census is to a great extent only apparent, and but for the exclusion of one of the old wards from the municipal limits and the temporary absence of a large number of people in connection with marriage ceremonies, the town would probably have returned at least as many inhabitants as in 1891. Roads radiate from the town in all directions. A considerable trade is carried by the Little Gandak, which, if slightly improved, would carry boats of 20 tons burthen all the year round. Muzaffarpur was constituted a municipality in 1864. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 70,000 and the expenditure Rs. 62,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 83,000 including Rs. 30,000 derived from a tax on houses and lands, Rs. 16,000 from a conservancy rate, Rs. 3,000 from a tax on vehicles, and

Rs. 18,000 from tolls. The incidence of taxation was R. 1-6-1 per head of the population. In the same year the expenditure also amounted to Rs. 83,000, the chief items being Rs. 3,000 spent on lighting, Rs. 3,000 on drainage, Rs. 29,000 on conservancy, Rs. 6,000 on medical relief, Rs. 11,000 on roads, Rs. 17,000 on buildings, and Rs. 1,400 on education. The town is clean and the streets in many cases are broad and well kept. It contains, in addition to the usual public buildings, a large new hospital, dispensary and several schools, some of the best of which are supported by the Bihār Scientific Society and the Dharmasamāj. In 1899 a college, teaching up to the B. A. standard, was established in Muzaffarpur through the generosity of a local zamindār. The building is large, and the college is in a flourishing condition. The District jail has accommodation for 465 prisoners, who are employed chiefly on the manufacture of mustard oil, castor oil, *daris*, carpets, matting, aloo fibre, coarse cloth and dusters. Near the court buildings is a lake formed from an old bed of the river. To prevent the river from reaching it, an embankment has been thrown across the lake towards Daudpur, but in spite of this the river has cut very deeply into the high bank near the circuit-house, and unless it changes its course, it will probably in time break through the strip of land which at present separates it from the lake. Muzaffarpur town is the head-quarters of the Bihār Light Horse Volunteer corps. At the time of the Mutiny of 1857 a small number of native troops who were stationed here rose, plundered the Collector's house, and attacked the treasury and jail, but were driven off by the police and *najibs* and decamped towards Aliganj Sowān in Sāran District without causing any further disturbance.

Sitāmarhi Town.—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name, Muzaffarpur District, Bengal, situated in 26° 35' N. and 85° 29' E. on the west bank of the Lakhandai river. Population (1901) 9,538. A large fair lasting a fortnight is held here about the end of March and is attended by people from very great distances. Siwān pottery, spices, brass utensils and cotton cloth form the staple articles of commerce; but the fair is especially noted for the large quantity of bullocks brought to it, the Sitāmarhi cattle being a noted breed. Tradition relates that the lovely Jānaki or Sita here sprang to life out of an earthen pot into which Rājā Janaka had driven his ploughshare. Sitāmarhi is situated on a branch of the Bengal and North-Western Railway and is also connected by road with the Nepāl frontier, Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur. The Lakhandai river is spanned by a fine brick bridge. The town has a large trade in rice, *sakhwa* wood, oilseeds, hides and Nepāl produce. The chief manufactures are saltpetre and the *janeu* or sacred thread worn by the twice-born

castles. Sitamarhi was constituted a municipality in 1882. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 9,900 and the expenditure Rs. 7,800. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 12,000, half of which was derived from a tax on persons (or property tax), and the expenditure was Rs. 8,000. The town contains the usual public offices; the sub-jail has accommodation for 26 prisoners.

Tirhut.—Formerly a District of Bengal, separated in 1875 into the two Districts of MUZAFFARPUR and DARBHANGA. The name is still loosely applied to Muzaffarpur.

Boundaries,
configuration,
and
river
system.

Darbhanga District.—North-eastern District of the Patna Division, Bengal, lying between $25^{\circ} 28'$ and $26^{\circ} 40'$ N., and $85^{\circ} 31'$ and $86^{\circ} 44'$ E., with an area of 3,348 square miles. It is bounded on the north by Nepal; on the east by Bhagalpur District; on the south by the Ganges and the District of Monghyr; and on the west by Muzaffarpur.

The District is one large alluvial plain with a general slope from north to south, varied by a depression in the centre. It contains no hills, but is divided by its river system into three well defined physical divisions. The first of these starting from the south is the tract beyond the Burhi Gandak river in the extreme south-west of the District, comprising the thānas of Dalsingh Sarai and Samastipur; it is a large block of upland with a few *chaurs* or marshes here and there. The second division corresponds roughly with Wārisnagar thāna, and consists of a small *doab* between the Baghmāti and Burhi Gandak rivers; it is the lowest part of the District and is liable to inundation from the former river. The rest of the District, comprising the head-quarters and Madhubani sub-divisions, is a low-lying plain intersected by numerous streams and marshes, but traversed also in parts by ridges of uplands. The south-eastern portion corresponding roughly with the thānas of Boherā and Ruserā is, in the rainy season, mainly a vast chain of temporary lakes, joined together by the numerous beds of the hill streams which pass through the Madhubani sub-division on their way from Nepal to the Ganges. Large portions of this area do not dry up till well on in the cold weather, and in some places communications are open for only three or four months of the year. In the Madhubani sub-division the land is generally higher, especially in the three western thānas and in the south of Phulparā, which contains stretches of high land.

The District contains three main river systems, the GANGES, the Little Gandak, and the Kamā-Tiljūgā. The Ganges, however, skirts it for only 20 miles, and the only stream of any importance

* The area shown in the census report of 1901 was 3,335 square miles; the area quoted in the text is that determined in the recent survey and settlement operations.

which joins it direct and not by way of the other river systems is the Bayā, an overflow of the Great Gandak, which flows for a short distance across the extreme south-east corner of the District. The Burhī or Little Gandak is an important river throughout its course in Champāran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga and North Monghyr. In all these Districts it marks a clearly defined division of the country. It enters the Darbhanga District near Pūsa and, after flowing past Samāstipur, leaves it just below Ruserā. Though its importance has been diminished by the railway, it is still a valuable trade highway, and there are many large bazars and marts on its banks. It is navigable, practically all the year round, for country boats of fair size. Its offshoots, the Jamwāri and the Balān, leave it near Pūsa, and after flowing through the south-west of the Samāstipur sub-division, rejoin the parent stream in Monghyr, before it flows into the Ganges at Khagariā. All the rivers in the head-quarters and Madhubanī sub-divisions belong to the Kamā-Tiljūgā group, so called because they converge at Tilakeswar in the south east corner of Ruserā thāna, and are thenceforward known indiscriminately by either name while proceeding through Monghyr and Bhāgalpur to join the Ganges and the Kosi by various tortuous courses. The first of the group, the Bāghmati, rises in Nepāl, and during its course through Darbhanga pursues an easterly direction parallel to the Burhī Gandak; it formerly joined this river near Ruserā, but has within the past 30 years cut out a new bed for itself, and now cuts into the Karai and joins the Tiljūgā at Tilakeswar. The Karai prior to its junction with the Bāghmati is an unimportant stream. The Little Bāghmati, on which the town of Darbhanga stands, also finds its way to the Tiljūgā by the bed of the Karai. Its chief tributary is the Dhaus, which runs through the north-west of Benipati thāna. The Little Bāghmati was formerly joined near Kamtaul by the Kamā, a river whose old beds are found all over the north of Madhubanī sub-division. It used to flow 10 miles east of Madhubanī town, but now passes 10 miles to the west of it, its main channel running about 4 miles east of Darbhanga town past Baherā, Singiā and Hirni to Tilakeswar. It is a fairly large river in the rains and liable to heavy floods. Still further east is the Little Balān, a deep and narrow river with a well defined bed, which runs south through the eastern part of Khajauli and Madhubanī thānas, and joins the Tiljūgā near Ruserā. The Balān proper, also known as the Bhāti Balān, is a river with a wide shifting sandy bed liable to heavy floods, but practically dry during a great part of the year. Its old beds are found all over the north of Phulparās thāna. Last comes the Tiljūgā which rises in Nepāl and skirts the entire eastern boundary of the District, though parts of it lie in the Bhāgalpur

District. The rivers in the Madhubani and head-quarter sub-divisions are liable to overflow their banks during heavy floods, but they rapidly drain off into the low-lying country in the south-east of the District, on which all the lines of drainage north of the Burhi Gandak converge.

Geology. The District is covered by the older alluvium. *Kaukar* or nodular limestone of an inferior quality occurs in places.

Botany. The District contains no forests, and, except for a few very small patches of jungle, of which the chief constituents are the red cotton tree (*Bombax malabaricum*), *khair* (*Acacia catechu*) and *sissu* (*Dalbergia sissoo*), with an undergrowth of euphorbiaceous and urticaceous shrubs and tree weeds, and occasional large stretches of grass land interspersed with smaller spots of *úsar* land, the ground is under close cultivation, and besides the crops carries only a few field weeds. Near villages small shrubberies may be found containing mango, *sissu*, *Eugenia jambolana*, various species of *Ficus*, an occasional tamarind and a few other semi-spontaneous and more or less useful species. Both the palmyra (*Borassus flabelliformis*) and the *khajúr* or date-palm (*Phoenix sylvestris*) occur planted and at times self-sown. The field and road-side weeds include various grasses and sedges, chiefly species of *Panicum* and *Cyperus*, and in waste corners and on railway embankments thickets of *sissu*, derived both from seeds and root-suckers, very rapidly appear. The sluggish streams and ponds are filled with water weeds, the sides being often fringed by reedy grasses and bulrushes, sometimes with tamarisk bushes intermixed.

Fauna. Wild hogs are very common; a stray tiger or leopard occasionally wanders down along a river bank from Nepal, and a few wolves are also found. Crocodiles infest the rivers, and several kinds of dangerous snakes abound, the most common being the cobra, *karait* (*Bungarus caruleus*) and *gohuman* (*Naja tripudians*).

Climate and temperature. Dry westerly winds are experienced in the hot season, but the temperature is not so excessive as in South Bihar, the highest on record at Darbhanga being 107° in 1894. The mean maximum temperature ranges from 73° in January to 96° in April and May, and falls to 75° in December, decreasing rapidly in November and December. The mean minimum temperature varies from 62° in January to 80° in July; the lowest ever recorded is 38·3° in January 1878. Rainfall is heavy in the sub-montane tract partly owing to the heavy showers which occur when cyclonic storms break up on reaching the hills, and partly because the monsoon current is stronger towards the west along the foot of the hills. The average annual fall for the District is 60 inches, of which 7·4 inches fall in June, 12·6 in July, 12·9 in August and 9·9 in September. Parts of the District, especially the extreme south and the *doab* between the Baghmati and the Little Gandak, are liable to inundations, but these usually cause little damage

Heavy floods however occurred in 1898, 1902, and 1906 causing some loss of life and cattle, carrying away houses and damaging the roads. The floods of 1906 were particularly severe, causing great distress and, in some tracts, scarcity, and necessitating famine relief measures.

In ancient times the District formed part of the old kingdom of Mithilā. It passed successively under the Pāl and Sen dynasties; and was conquered by Muhammad-i-Bakhtyār Khiljī in 1203. From the middle of the 14th century it was under a line of Brāhman kings until it was merged in the Mughal empire in 1556. History and archaeology. Considering the present position of the Darbhanga District as the head-quarters of Mithilā Brāhmanism, singularly little is known of its early history prior to the Muhammadan period. The Rāmāyaṇa contains a few references to localities which local patriotism identifies with some existing villages in Benipatti thāna, chief among them being Ahiāri, which is said to have been the abode of Ahalyā, the wife of Gautama Rishi, who was turned into stone by her husband's jealous harshness and restored to life by Rāma. But no reference is found to any place in the District in the more authentic records of Buddhism, and it seems to have been left unvisited by the Buddhist pilgrims, who traversed a large part of Bihar in the fifth and seventh centuries of the Christian era. Nor is it possible to draw, from the history of the Pāl and Sen dynasties, even such scanty information as is obtainable in regard to Muzaffarpur and Siran. There can be little doubt that up to the 12th or 13th century Darbhanga was relatively a backward tract, and that its development has coincided with the rise of Brāhmanism. The oldest known document relating to the District is a grant dated 1400 A. D., conveying the village of Bisā in Benipatti thāna to the poet Vidyapati, who flourished in the reign of Rājā Siva Singh and made the latter the best known of all the Hindu Rājās of Mithilā. Probably the oldest family in the District is that of the Rājā of Dharnur, which flourished long before the English occupation, but is now in very reduced circumstances. At the present day, the only landholder of any historic importance is the Mahārājā of Darbhanga (*see* DARBHANGA RAJ). When Darbhanga passed into the hands of the British in 1765 it was included in *sābah* Bihar and formed with the greater part of the Muzaffarpur District the *sarkār* of Tirhut. Thus Bihar was retained as an independent revenue division, and in 1782 Tirhut (including Hajipur) was made into a collectorate. In 1875 Tirhut was divided into the two existing Districts of Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga. The ruins of old forts are found at JAYNAGAR, Berautpur, Bhawāra, Balarājpur and Mangal.

The population of the present area increased from 2,136,898 in 1872 to 2,630,496 in 1881, to 2,801,955 in 1891 and to 2,912,611 in 1901. The increase in 1881 was largely due to The people.

defective enumeration in 1872. During the last of the decennial periods, the progress of the District was impeded by scarcity in 1891 and by famine in 1896-97; the decade moreover was not a healthy one, and the recorded deaths outnumbered the births in 3 out of the 10 years. Fever causes the highest mortality, while cholera occasionally appears in an epidemic form. Plague appeared in the District at the end of 1900. Deaf-mutism is prevalent along the course of the Burhi Gandak and Baghmati rivers. The salient statistics of the census of 1901 are given below:—

SUB-DIVISION.	Area in square miles.	NUMBER OF		Population.	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Darbhanga	1,224	2	1,308	1,065,825	871	+1.0	35,623
Madhubani	1,316	1	1,084	1,094,379	813	+7.8	24,830
Samastipur	778	1	813	762,837	967	+1.0	60,170
DISTRICT TOTAL ...	3,318	4	3,205	2,923,041	870	+8.9	109,623

The towns are DARBHANGA, the head-quarters, MADHUBANI, RUSERA and SAMASTIPUR. Darbhanga supports a larger population to the square mile than any District in Bengal except Muzaffarpur, Saran and the 24-Parganas (excluding the Sundarbans). The density of the population is greatest in Samastipur, where the rich uplands produce valuable crops. There is still some room for expansion in Madhubani, but in the other sub-divisions the pressure of the agricultural population on the soil is already so great that further expansion under present conditions is not to be expected or desired. A considerable number of males of the class of landless labourers seek a livelihood in other parts; they go by preference to the neighbourhood of Calcutta or to Dacca and North Bengal. The vernacular of the District is the Maithili dialect of Bihari; Musalmāns speak a form of Maithili with an admixture of Persian and Arabic words, known as Jolāhā bōlī. In 1901 Hindus numbered 2,559,128 or 87.9 per cent. of the total population and Musalmāns 352,691 or 12.1 per cent.

Among the Hindus the most numerous castes are the Ahirs or Goālās (384,000), Dosādhs (208,000), Brāhmans (198,000), Bābhāns (154,000), Dhānuks (152,000), Koiris (145,000), Mallāhs (117,000) and Chamārs (106,000), while Kewats, Khatwas, Kurmīs, Musahars, Rājputs, Tāntis and Telis all number between 50,000 and 100,000. Two small castes Deohars (inoculators) and Dhīmārs (grain parchers, pālki-bearers, etc.) are peculiar to the District. Among Musalmāns Shaikhs (163,000), Jolāhās (58,000), Dhuniās (40,000) and Kunjras (39,000) are the best represented.

Their
castes and
occupations.

Agriculture supports 78·6 per cent. of the population, industries 10·2 per cent., commerce 0·4 per cent. and the professions 1·1 per cent.

There are several small Christian communities of different denominations but no missions of any importance, and of 710 Christians in the District in 1901 only 296 were natives; there is a small Roman Catholic mission at Samastipur, a Methodist mission and a Zanana Bible and Medical mission. Christian Missions.

The elevated land south-west of the Burhi Gandak is the richest and most fertile part of the District and produces all the most valuable *rabi* and *bhadai* crops. In the low-lying *doab* between the Baghmati and the Little Gandak rivers the main crop raised is winter rice, though in many parts good *rabi* crops are also raised on the lands enriched by inundation. In Baherā and Ruserā thānas, in the south-east of the plain which constitutes the rest of the District, the only crop of any importance is the winter rice, which when not submerged by floods at too early a date is very prolific. The higher land in the Madhubani sub-division is suitable for the growing of the more valuable *rabi* crops, but the staple crop is winter rice and the produce of Alāpur, Jabdi and Bachaur is famous all over Bihār. The only classification of land understood by the ordinary cultivator is that into *dhanhar* and *bhith*, the former being the low lands on which rice is grown, and the latter the uplands growing cereals or crops of any kind other than rice. General agricultural conditions.

The salient agricultural statistics for 1903-04 are reproduced below, areas being in square miles:— Chief agricultural statistics and principal crops.

SUB-DIVISION.			Total.	Cultivated.	Culturable waste.
Darbhanga	...	...	1,224	923	192
Madhubani	...	...	1,346	1,000	169
Samastipur	...	...	778	587	69
TOTAL			3,348	2,510	860

It is estimated that 44 per cent. of the not cultivated area was twice cropped.

The most important feature of agriculture of the District is its dependence on the *aghani* (or winter) harvest, no less than 68 per cent. of the cultivated area being under crops of this kind, chiefly winter rice, which in 1903-04 covered 1,405 square miles. *Marud* is another favourite crop and is grown over an area of 831 square miles; wheat covers 106 square miles, barley 163, maize 152, gram 83, and miscellaneous food grains 60 square miles; these last consist chiefly of *khesari*, *rahar*, *masuri*, *kodon*, *china*,

saun, *urd*, *mung*, *janera* and oats. Miscellaneous food crops, consisting mainly of potatoes, yams and *suthni* (*Dioscorea fasciculata*) are extensively grown in the Samastipur sub-division. The principal non-food crops are oilseeds (principally linseed) covering 849 square miles; they are very largely grown as catch crops in winter rice lands, but their value is comparatively small. Tobacco is cultivated on 48 square miles, chiefly in the Samastipur sub-division. Indigo with 63 square miles covers a larger area than in any other Bengal District except Champaran and Muzaffarpur, but the area is steadily decreasing. Sugarcane and opium are grown, but to a comparatively small extent. Of the other non-food crops *kharhaul* or thatching grass is the most valuable.

Improvements in agricultural practice.

The area under cultivation has nearly doubled within the last 100 years, but the greater part of the extension took place in the first half of the 19th century and little further expansion is now practicable. Experiments with improved seeds have been made in the Narhan Ward's Estate but without much success. Several Europeans are now cultivating sugarcane, and experiments in the growth of *rhea* and the preparation of *rhea* fibre are being made at Dalsingh Sarai. The Government estate at Pusa has recently been made over to the Government of India as the site for an Imperial agricultural college and research institute, and portions of the estate are being utilized as a farm for experimental cultivation and cattle breeding. Government advanced Rs 33,000 as loans after the scarcity of 1891-92, and Rs. 20,000 in the famine of 1897.

Cattle.

The local cattle are weak and small. This is due partly to careless breeding and partly to the want of adequate pasturage.

Irrigation.

There are no Government irrigation works, but an area of 171 square miles, or 6½ per cent. of the cultivated area, is irrigated from other sources, chiefly in the Madhubani sub-division, where the numerous rivers and streams are very largely taken advantage of to bring water to the winter rice. In the Benipati thana in this sub-division a very complete system of *ahars* and *pains* has been constructed, and a large area is also irrigated from tanks. In the Samastipur sub-division extensive irrigation is not practicable, nor is it required for the crops mainly grown, but the valuable poppy and tobacco crops are watered from wells.

Minerals.

Beds of *kankar* or nodular limestone of an inferior quality are met with in several places. Saliferous earth is found in patches all over the District, and a special caste, the Nuniās, earns a scanty livelihood by extracting saltpetre. The amount produced in 1903-04 was 51,000 maunds.

Arts and manufactures.

Coarse cloth, pottery and mats are manufactured, and brass utensils made at Jhanjharpur have a local reputation. The manufacture of indigo in the District by European agency dates back

to the time of the permanent settlement, the present concerns of Dalsingh Sarai, Jitwārpur, Tiwāra and Kamtaul having been all founded before the year 1800. During the 19th century the cultivation of indigo spread into every thāna of the District, but it was always more prevalent in the south than in the north, where the prevailing soil is less suitable for it. In 1874 the District contained the largest concern in India and probably in the world: this was Pandaul, which with its outworks comprised an area of 300 square miles. It was subsequently split up, the northern outworks being purchased by the present Mahārāja of Darbhanga. He abandoned the cultivation of indigo about three years ago, and the fall in the price of the dye, due to the competition of artificial substitutes, has caused many other factories to abandon or contract very greatly the area under indigo. The Settlement officer in 1903 enumerated 28 factories with 36 outworks in the District. In 1903-04 the area under indigo had fallen to 34,000 acres, of which the greater part lay within the Samāstipur sub-division; and in 1904 the number of factories had decreased to 24 with 27 outworks. The chief feature of the industry in this District, as compared with the other indigo growing tracts in North Bihār, is the large area cultivated direct by the factories themselves, amounting in the Samāstipur sub-division to no less than 94 per cent. of the total area under indigo. The plant, when out, is fermented in masonry vats and oxidized either by beating or by currents of steam. The dye thus precipitated is boiled and dried into cakes. In 1903-04 the outturn of indigo was 7,015 maunds valued at 9·12 lakhs. Of late years, owing to the fall in the value of indigo, the factories have taken to the growing of ordinary crops, and this tendency is particularly marked in Dalsingh Sarai thāna, where the results have been highly successful. The sugar industry is important in the Madhubanī sub-division, where outturn of 30 factories was valued at 2·71 lakhs in 1904.

The principal exports are rice, indigo, gram, pulses, lin- Commerce.
seed, mustard seed, saltpetre, tobacco, hides, *ghi* and timber, and the imports are rice and other food grains, salt, kerosene oil, gunny bags, coal and coke, European cotton piece-goods and raw cotton. Gram, pulses and oilseeds are chiefly sent to Calcutta, and rice and other food grains to Sāran and Muzaffarpur. The imports of food-grains come for the most part from Bhāgalpur and Nepāl, coal and coke from Burdwān, kerosene oil from the 24 Parganas, and salt and piece-goods from Calcutta. The principal marts are DARBHANGA, SAMASTIPUR, MADHUBANI, RUSERA, Pūsa, Kamtaul, Dalsingh Sarai, NARAHIA (for the Nepalese grain traffic) and JHANYHARPUR. The chief trading castes are Agarwāls, Barnawārs, Kaserwānīs, Kothbaniās, Khattrīs and Sinduriās. Most of the trade with Calcutta and the neighbouring Districts is carried

by rail. The traffic with Nepāl is carried in carts and on pack bullocks and occasionally by coolies. Some timber is floated down the rivers.

Railways
and roads.

The famine of 1874 gave a great impetus to the construction of railways, and the District is on the whole well off in the matter of railway communications. Its south-west corner is traversed for 29 miles by the main line of the Bengal and North-Western Railway and also by 25 miles of the new chord-line from Hajipur to Bachwāra, which runs parallel to the Ganges embankment from east to west. From Samāstipur a line runs to Darbhanga and there branches off in two directions, the first north-west to Sitamarhi through Kamtaul and Jogiāra, and the other due east to Khanwā Ghāt on the Kosi. The total length of the line within the District is 146 miles. Most of the earth-work for a line from Sakri to Jaynagar on the Nepāl frontier was completed as a relief work during the famine of 1897, and the line, which has now been opened, should tap a large grain supply from Nepāl. Including 769 miles of village tracks, the District contains 1,949 miles of roads, of which 47 miles are metalled. The most important is the main road running eastwards from Muzaffarpur through Darbhanga town and Narhiā to Purnea. Roads radiate from Darbhanga town and the sub-divisional head-quarters to the most important places in the interior, and from Darbhanga town and Sakri, Jhanjhārpur and Nirmālī railway stations to the Nepāl frontier. Most of the roads were constructed as relief works in the famine of 1874 and others by the road cess committee which was established in 1875, and by its successor, the District board. The total mileage is now about three times what it was 30 years ago. Many of the roads in the low-lying tract in the central and south-eastern part of the District are impassable during the rains; their high embankments are frequently breached in time of flood, and to avoid this, an enormous amount of bridging would be necessary. Much has been done in this direction in recent years; five pontoon bridges have been erected at different points on the Gandak and the Bāghmati; and the road from Darbhanga to Jaynagar on the frontier, which crosses all the rivers in the west of the Madhubani sub-division, has been bridged throughout at the cost of the Darbhanga Raj. In Samāstipur, where the country is high, and comparatively little embanking or bridging is required, most of the roads are in good order and can be used at all seasons of the year.

Water
commu-
nications.

The Ganges is navigable for steamers throughout the year, and a daily service, which plies up the river from Gwalundo, calls at Hardāspur in the extreme south-west corner of the Samāstipur sub-division. The Burhī Gandak river is navigable for boats of 1,000 maunds burden at all seasons, but its boat traffic has much

decreased since the opening of the railway. Boats of 400 or 500 maunds can pass up the Baghmati except in a very dry season. The other rivers in the District are navigable in the rainy season only, and are not much used even then owing to their liability to floods. The principal ferries are those on the Burhi Gandak and Baghmati rivers, the most important being at Māgarlihi Ghāt (at Samāstipur) and Singiā Ghāt (at Ruserā) on the Burhi Gandak and at Kalyā Ghāt and Huiā Ghāt on the Baghmati.

Whenever the normal rainfall falls short of the average or is famre. badly distributed, the crops suffer; the bulk of the cultivated area is under winter rice, and the most serious results ensue from a premature cessation of the monsoon. The first severe famine of which there is any reliable record is that of 1874. The rains of 1873 commenced late, were insufficient to bring even the *bladoi* crops to full maturity, and ceased in September with a deficiency in some parts of no less than 28 inches. The rice crop was very short everywhere, and in the head-quarters sub-division it was almost wholly destroyed. Relief operations on a lavish scale were undertaken in ample time, and serious loss of life was prevented. Severe local scarcities again occurred in 1875-76, 1888-89 and 1891-92. In 1895 the harvest was again a short one, and this was followed by the great crop failure of 1896, which affected the whole District except two of the three thānas of the Samāstipur sub-division; in the third, Wārisangar, the distress was less acute than in the rest of the District, while it was greatest in the west of the head-quarters and Madhubani sub-divisions. Relief was again promptly given, and the total expenditure amounted to nearly 57 lakhs. The numbers in receipt of relief rose to 23,000 at the end of May 1897, of whom 147,000 persons with 10,000 dependents were engaged on relief works and 79,000 were in receipt of gratuitous relief. The imports of grain into the District during the famine amounted to more than 44,000 tons. The total number of persons relieved, reckoned in terms of one day, was 40,911,000 or more than in any other Bengal District, but the death-rate was unusually low during the greater part of the distress, and the recovery of the District after the famine was rapid.

For general administrative purposes the District is divided into 3 sub-divisions with head-quarters at **DARBHANGA**, **MADHUBANI** and **SAMASTIPUR**. The staff subordinate to the District Magistrate-Collector at head-quarters consists of an Assistant Magistrate-Collector and 5 Deputy Magistrate-Collectors, while the Madhubani and Samāstipur sub-divisions are each in charge of a Joint or Assistant Magistrate assisted by a sub-deputy collector. District sub-div. alone and staff.

The civil courts subordinate to the District and Sessions Judge Civil and are those of 3 Munsifs at Darbhanga, 3 at Samāstipur and 2 at criminal Madhubani; civil cases above a certain value are disposed of by juries.

two Subordinate Judges at Muzaffarpur. The criminal courts include those of the Sessions Judge and District Magistrate and of the Joint, Assistant and Deputy Magistrates referred to above. There is little heinous crime, the commonest offences being theft and burglary.

Land
revenue.

At the time of Todar Mal's assessment Darbhanga formed a portion of *sarkār* Tirhut, which belonged to the northern division of the *sūbah* or province of Bihār. The 42 *parganas*, for which figures are available, returned a productive area of 320 square miles. The revenue assessed on them was 2·31 lakhs, giving an incidence of R. 1·2 per cultivated acre, as compared with R. 1·7 in Tirhut as a whole, R. 1·8 in Saran and R. 1·6·3 in Champaran. The inference is that Darbhanga was then in a more backward agricultural condition than the rest of North Bihār, and it is probable that the more remote parts were practically unsubdued and in the hands of refractory and independent zamindars. The subsequent development of the District may be gauged from the fact that it now contains a cultivated area of 2,610 square miles, so that cultivation has increased eight-fold in the last 3 centuries. The present revenue is 7·97 lakhs or more than three times what it was in Akbar's reign, but the incidence per cultivated acre is under 8 annas or less than half what it was at Todar Mal's assessment. At the decennial settlement in 1790, which was made permanent in 1793, little more than a quarter of the total area covered by the present District was dealt with and nearly two-thirds of the present cultivated area escaped assessment, the revenue demand being 6·48 lakhs on an area of 892 square miles. Proceedings were afterwards instituted to resume lands held revenue-free under illegal or invalid titles, and by 1850, 3·61 lakhs had thus been added to the land revenue. In 1903-04 of the total current demand 7·86 lakhs were payable by 13,752 permanently settled estates and Rs. 10,500 by estates held direct by Government, while 2 small estates are temporarily settled. Owing to the backward state of the District at the time of the permanent settlement, the incidence of revenue per acre is only R. 0·5-10. One of the most remarkable features in the revenue administration is the increase in the number of permanently settled estates owing to partition; these numbered only 8,257 in 1879-80, while at the time of the permanent settlement there were only 532.

The District has recently (1896-1903) been surveyed and a record-of-rights prepared. It was found that settled and occupancy ryots hold 83 per cent. of the total occupied area and these pay cash rents for 92 per cent. of the area held by them; while non-occupancy ryots and under-ryots pay produce rents for 7 and 53 per cent. respectively of the areas held by them. Produce rents are of three kinds, *batai*, *bhaoli* and *mankhap*; in the first case the actual crop is divided between the landlord

and the ryot; in the second the value of the crop is appraised on the ground shortly before the harvest and a share is paid by the ryot to the landlord either in cash or kind; while in the third case the ryot pays a certain quantity of the outturn irrespective of the amount of the produce. Very high rents are charged for land growing valuable crops such as tobacco, poppy and ohillies, and it is not unusual to find tobacco lands assessed at Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per acre. The average rates for good rice lands are from Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 per acre and for lands producing both an autumn and a spring harvest from Rs. 5 to Rs. 6. On the whole the highest rents are found in Samāstipur and the lowest in Madhubani.

The only peculiar tenure in the District is that known as *jaidādi*, which prevails in the low lands of Baherā thāna. As this tract is extremely liable to inundation, the ryot pays rent not on his whole holding but only on such part of it as actually produces a crop, the cropped area being measured for this purpose just before the harvest and a rate previously agreed upon applied to it. For the whole District ryots at fixed rents pay R. 1-12-0 per acre, settled and occupancy ryots Rs. 3-12-6 and non-occupancy ryots Rs. 4-7-10 per acre, the average for the 3 classes being Rs. 3-12-4 per acre, while under-ryots pay Rs. 4-8-4 per acre.

The following table shows the collections of land revenue and of total revenue, under the principal heads, in thousands of rupees:—

	1880-81.	1890-91.	1900-01.	1903-04.
Land revenue	8,09	7,97	7,51	7,99
Total revenue	14,80	18,18	19,59	20,47

Outside the municipalities of DARBHANGA, RUSERA, SAMĀSTIPUR and MADHUBANI, local affairs are managed by the District board with subordinate local boards in each sub-division. Local and municipal In govern-
1903-04 its income was Rs. 3,88,000, of which Rs. 2,30,000 was ment.
derived from rates, and the expenditure was Rs. 4,13,000, including Rs. 2,83,000 spent on civil works.

The District contains (1903) 11 police-stations and 12 out-posts, and the force subordinate to the District Superintendent Police and of Police consists of 3 inspectors, 36 sub-inspectors, 27 head-constables and 403 constables; the rural police force contains 286 *daffadars* and 4,462 *chaukidars*. The District jail at Darbhanga has accommodation for 355 prisoners, and subsidiary jails at Madhubani and Samāstipur for 37.

Education. Education, though backward, has made considerable progress in recent years. In 1901, 3·5 per cent. of the population (7·1 males and 0·1 females) could read and write. The number of pupils under instruction increased from 24,864 in 1892-93 to 34,927 in 1900-01, while 42,545 boys and 2,604 girls were at school in 1903-04, being respectively 20·0 and 1·1 per cent. of the children of school-going age. The number of educational institutions, public and private, in that year was 1,692, including 19 secondary schools, 1,151 primary schools and 522 other schools. The expenditure on education was Rs. 1,21,000, of which Rs. 9,000 was met from Provincial funds, Rs. 48,000 from District funds, Rs. 3,000 from municipal funds and Rs. 39,000 from fees.

Medical. In 1903 the District contained 16 dispensaries, of which 8 had accommodation for 172 in-door patients. The cases of 239,000 out-patients and 2,800 in-patients were treated during the year, and 6,000 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 60,000, of which Rs. 900 was derived from Government contributions, Rs. 29,000 from local and Rs. 7,000 from municipal funds, and Rs. 26,000 from subscriptions.

Vaccination. Vaccination is compulsory only in municipal areas. During 1903-04 the number of persons successfully vaccinated was 90,000, representing 32·2 per thousand of the population, or rather less than the general ratio for Bengal.

[Sir W. W. Hunter, *Statistical Account of Bengal*, vol. xiii, 1877; Mr. J. H. Kerr, *Settlement report*, Calcutta, 1904.]

Darbhanga Sub-division.—Head-quarters sub-division of the Darbhanga District, Bengal, lying between 25° 38' and 26° 26' N., and 85° 41' and 86° 44' E., with an area of 1,224 square miles. Its population rose from 1,048,806 in 1891 to 1,065,595 in 1901, when there were 871 persons to the square mile. The greater part of the sub-division is a low-lying plain intersected by numerous streams and marshes; and the chief crop is winter rice, which, when not submerged at too early a date by floods, yields an abundant out-turn. The sub-division contains 2 towns, DARBHANGA, its head-quarters (population 66,244), and RUSERA (10,245), and 1,306 villages.

Madhubani Sub-division.—Northern sub-division of the Darbhanga District, Bengal, lying between 26° 2' and 26° 40' N., and 85° 45' and 86° 44' E., with an area of 1,346 square miles. Its population rose from 1,014,700 in 1891 to 1,094,379 in 1901, when there were 813 persons to the square mile. It is less densely inhabited than the rest of the District, and is the only sub-division where there is much room for further expansion. It consists of a rich alluvial plain traversed by ridges of uplands suitable for *rabi* cultivation, but the staple crop is winter rice, and the produce of Alāpur, Jabdi and Bacheur is famous all over Bihar. It contains one town, MADHUBANI its head-quarters (population 17,802), and 1,084 villages. NARAHIA is an important centre of the Nepales,

grain traffic, at JHANJHARPUR on the railway brass utensils of a superior quality are manufactured, and at SAURATH an important annual *mela* or religious festival is held. Sugar is extensively manufactured throughout the sub-division. JAYNAGAR is the site of a mud fort.

Samāstipur Sub-division.—Southern sub-division of the Darbhanga District, Bengal, lying between 25° 28' and 26° 5' N., and 85° 31' and 86° 1' E., with an area of 778 square miles. Its population rose from 738,449 in 1891 to 752,637 in 1901, when there were 967 persons to the square mile or more than in any other part of the District. With the exception of part of the *doāb* between the Bāghmati and Burhī Gandak rivers, the sub-division consists of a large block of upland interspersed with a few *chauris* or marshes. It is the richest and most fertile part of the District, producing all the most valuable *rahi* and *bhados* crops, and it is the centre of the indigo industry in the Darbhanga District. It contains one town, SAMĀSTIPUR, its head-quarters (population 9,101), and 843 villages. Samāstipur town is an important railway junction and contains workshops of the Bengal and North-Western Railway. The Government estate at PUSA has recently been made over to the Government of India as the site for an Imperial agricultural college and research laboratory, and portions of the estate are being utilized as an experimental farm for cultivation and cattle breeding farm.

Darbhangā Rāj.—Estate in Bengal. The Darbhanga family traces its origin to one Mahes Thākur, who is said to have come from Jubbulpore about the beginning of the 16th century. He took service as a priest with the descendants of Rājā Siva Singh, who still exercised a nominal supremacy in Tirhut, but when they collapsed before the advancing Muhammadan power, Mahes Thākur induced Akbar to grant him what are now the Darbhanga Rāj Estates. He and his descendants gradually consolidated the power of the family both in agrarian and in social matters, and though, owing to reousancy at the permanent settlement, the Rājā of that period was for some time deprived of a portion of his property, the British Government eventually recognised him. During the first half of the 19th century, owing to mismanagement and litigation, the estate fell into considerable difficulties. But the litigation had the effect of deciding that the estate was impartible and that the inheritance to it was regulated by primogeniture, and owing to a long minority of over 20 years from 1860 onwards, during which the estate was under the Court of Wards, it is now in a very flourishing condition. Darbhanga has been the head-quarters of the family only since 1762, prior to which date it resided at Madhubanī. The present Mahārājā, Rāmeswar Singh, succeeded on the death of his brother in 1898.

The estates at present comprise lands situated in the Districts of Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Gayā, Monghyr, Purnea and Bhāgalpur, with an area of more than 2,410 square miles. The Mahārājā is also the owner of house property in the towns of Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Patna, Benares, Calcutta, Allahābād, Darjeeling and Simla, and of the indigo concerns of Sarahiā and Bachaur in the Muzaffarpur District, Pandaul in Darbhanga and Gondwāra in Purnea. The rent roll exceeds 32 lakhs and the Government revenue, including cesses, is $7\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. The present system of management was introduced when the estate was under the Court of Wards and is very complete. The estate is divided into circles of from fifty to two hundred villages each; each circle is in charge of a sub-manager, who is responsible to the Mahārājā for its efficient working, and under each sub-manager there are usually several *tahsildārs* in charge of groups of villages or rent collectors. The average rent payable by the occupancy ryots of the Rāj is believed to be about Rs. 4.

Darbhanga Town.—Head-quarters of Darbhanga District, Bengal, situated in $26^{\circ} 10' N.$ and $85^{\circ} 54' E.$ on the left bank of the Little Bāghmati river. It probably takes its name from one Darbhanga Khān, a Muhammadan freebooter; the traditional derivation from *dar-i-Bangal* or gate of Bengal seems to be etymologically impossible. The population of the town increased from 53,744 in 1872 to 65,955 in 1881 and to 73,561 in 1891, but fell again to 66,244 in 1901. This decrease, however, is to a great extent fictitious: the population was abnormally large in 1891 on account of the presence of some 5,000 Brāhmans who had come to partake of a feast given by the Mahārājā, while in 1901 the census was taken on an auspicious day for weddings in connection with which a large number of persons was temporarily absent. In 1901 the inhabitants included 47,946 Hindus, 18,122 Muhammadans and 171 Christians. Communications by road are good in all directions. It is connected with the north Ganges railway system by a line from Samastipur on the south; which branches off at Darbhanga in two directions, the first north-west to Samastipur and the second north-east to Khanwā Ghāt on the Kosi. A considerable trade is carried on, the principal exports being oilseeds, *gñi* and timber; and the imports, food-grains, salt, gunny cloth, piece-goods, lime and iron. Darbhanga was constituted a municipality in 1864. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 42,000 and the expenditure Rs. 35,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 55,000, of which Rs. 23,000 was derived from a tax on persons (or property tax), and Rs. 11,000 from a tax on houses and lands, while the expenditure was Rs. 38,000. A large market place has been constructed between the hospital and the Mahārājā's garden. The whole country around the town becomes a swamp during the

rains, being subject to inundations from the Kamlā and Little Bāghmati, and the civil station and public offices were therefore moved in 1884 to the suburb of Lahoriā Sarai at the extreme south of the town. The District jail has accommodation for 355 prisoners, who are employed on oil-pressing, weaving, the manufacture of *neucār*, ropes and matting, etc.

Jaynagar.—Village in the Madhubanī sub-division of the Darbhanga District, Bengal, situated in 26° 35' N. and 86° 9' E. a few miles south of the Nepāl frontier, and a little east of the river Kamlā. Population (1901) 3,551. The village contains a mud fort attributed to Alā-ud-din, king of Bengal (1493—1518) and said to have been constructed to resist the incursions of the hill tribes. Near the fort is an encampment made by the English during the Nepāl war.

Jhanjhārpur.—Village in the Madhubanī sub-division of the Darbhanga District, Bengal, situated in 26° 16' N. and 86° 17' E. on the Bengal North-Western Railway. Population (1901) 5,639. Its brass utensils, particularly the *pānbatta* or box for holding betel leaf and the *gangāfah* or water-pot, have a local reputation.

Madhubanī Town.—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name, Darbhanga District, Bengal, situated in 26° 21' N. and 86° 5' E. about 16 miles north-east of Darbhanga town. Population (1901) 17,802. Madhubanī is an important trading centre on the road from Sakri on the Bengal and North-Western Railway to the Nepāl frontier. It was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 16,000 and the expenditure Rs. 12,000. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 18,000, mainly derived from a tax on persons (or property tax) and the receipts from municipal markets, and the expenditure was Rs. 16,000. The town contains the usual public offices; the sub-jail has accommodation for 14 prisoners.

Narahiā.—Village in the Madhubanī sub-division of Darbhanga District, Bengal, situated in 26° 22' N. and 86° 32' E. Population (1901) 5,069. Narahiā is connected by a road with the Bengal and North-Western Railway and is an important centre for the Nepalese grain traffic.

Pūsa.—Village in the Samastipur sub-division, Darbhanga District, Bengal, situated in 25° 59' N. and 85° 40' E. near the right bank of the Burhi Gandak and near the boundary of Muzaffarpur District. Population (1901) 4,570. The village was acquired by Government in 1796, and other waste lands appertaining to Bakhtiyārpur, a village on the other side of the river with a population of 1,384 in 1901, were assigned to Government in 1798 without any additional rent. Pūsa was long used as a stud depot, but all stud operations were closed in 1874; and in 1875 a model farm was established, the soil being of the first quality, the

situation good, and water carriage and large markets within easy reach. In 1877, however, Government leased the estate to a European firm, who continued to grow tobacco here in continuation of previous experiments till 1897, when the lease expired and was not renewed. In 1904 the estate, which comprises 1,280 acres, was made over to the Government of India as the site for an Imperial agricultural college, research laboratory, experimental cultivation farm and cattle-breeding farm. The necessary buildings are being constructed, and the experimental farm and cattle breeding farm have been started.

Ruserā.—Town in the head-quarters sub-division of Darbhanga District, Bengal, situated in $25^{\circ} 45' N.$ and $86^{\circ} 2' E.$ on the east bank of the Little Gandak, just below the confluence of that river with the Bāghmati. Population (1901) 10,245. Owing to its position on the Little Gandak, Ruserā was at one time the largest market in the south of the District, but though it is still an important bazar, it has somewhat lost its importance since the opening of the railway. Ruserā was constituted a municipality in 1869. The average income for the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 5,700 and the expenditure Rs. 4,900. In 1903-04 the income, which is mainly derived from a tax on persons (or property tax), was Rs. 6,600, and the expenditure was Rs. 6,000.

Samāstipur Town.—Head-quarters of the sub-division of the same name, Darbhanga District, Bengal, situated in $25^{\circ} 52' N.$ and $86^{\circ} 48' E.$ on the south bank of the Burhi Gandak river. Population (1901) 9,101. Samāstipur is an important junction on the Bengal and North-Western Railway, and is the site of railway workshops which employ 1,000 hands. It is also a large trading centre. It was constituted a municipality in 1897. The average income for the five years ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 8,000 and the expenditure Rs. 7,600. In 1903-04 the income was Rs. 9,600, of which Rs. 4,000 was derived from a tax on persons (or property tax) and the expenditure was Rs. 8,600. The town contains the usual public offices, etc.; the sub-jail has accommodation for 23 prisoners.

Saurāth.—Village in the Madhubani sub-division of Darbhanga District, Bengal, situated in $26^{\circ} 24' N.$ and $86^{\circ} 3' E.$ Population (1901) 2,062. It is famous for the large *mea* (religious fair) which takes place annually in June or July, when large numbers of Brāhmins assemble to settle their children's marriages. A fine temple to Mahādeo was built in 1845 by the Darbhanga Rāj.

Cross references (for Imperial Gazetteer only).

Aliganj Sewān.—Town in Sāran District, Bengal. *See* SIWAN.

Baxār.—Sub-division and town in Shāhābād District, Bengal. *See* BUXAR.

Beehea.—Village in Shāhābād District, Bengal. *See* BIHRA.

Behār.—Sub-division and town in Patna District, Bengal. *See* BIHAR.

Bhairagnā.—Village in Muzaffarpur District, Bengal. *See* BAIRAGNIA.

Bodh Gayā.—Village in Gayā District, Bengal. *See* BUDDH GAYĀ.

Chupra.—Sub-division and town in Sāran District, Bengal. *See* CHAPRA.

Dinapur.—Sub-division and town in Patna District, Bengal. *See* DINAPORE.

Durbhanga.—District, sub-division, town and estate in Bengal. *See* DARBHANGA.

Godnā.—Town in Sāran District, Bengal. *See* REVELGANS.

Hasua.—Town in Gayā District, Bengal. *See* HISUA.

Khagul.—Town in Patna District, Bengal. *See* KHAGAUL.

Laheirā Sarai.—Suburb of Darbhanga Town, Darbhanga District, Bengal. *See* DARBHANGA TOWN.

Mozaffarpore.—District, sub-division and town in Bengal. *See* MUZAFFARPUR.

Mukāma.—Town in Patna District, Bengal. *See* MOKAMEN.

Rājagriha.—Ruins in Patna District, Bengal. *See* RAJOIR.

Rosera.—Town in Darbhanga District, Bengal. *See* RUSERA.

Sāran Sub-division.—Sub-division of Sāran District, Bengal. *See* CHATRA.

Sasserām.—Sub-division and town in Shāhābād District, Bengal. *See* SASARAM.

Segowlie.—Village in Champāran District, Bengal. *See* SAGAULI.

Sewān.—Sub-division and town in Sāran District, Bengal. *See* SIWAN.

Somāstipur.—Sub-division and town in Darbhanga District, Bengal. *See* SAMASTIPUR.

Tikāri.—Town and estate in Gayā District, Bengal. *See* TIKARI.

Tirhoot.—Old District in Bengal. *See* TIRHUT.

